

Comm. IV.—
Provo-
sion and
Dispo-
sition.

the remainder being under the charge of local authorities. There was a shrinkage, as compared with last year, of 21 miles in the case of metalled and 302 miles in the case of unmetalled roads. The total expenditure on communications, which in 1915-16 was Rs. 54.74 lakhs, amounted in the year of report to Rs. 51.21 lakhs, of which Rs. 19.80 lakhs were expended on original works and Rs. 31.41 lakhs on repairs. The usual routine of constructing, repairing and improving roads throughout the Province was carried on throughout the year. Among the more striking features may be noticed the construction of a 400 feet span suspension bridge at Tatingang over the Namtu in the Northern Shan States, the estimated cost being Rs. 70,038. This bridge takes the place of a ferry and will greatly improve communications in those States. Good progress was made in improving the communications of the Tavoy District with a view to facilitating an increased output of wolfram. The improvements to the Pagaye-Myitta road were completed. Three bridges were practically finished, one was actually finished and the renewal of another begun. On the Tavoy-Pagaye road, three bridges were renewed, and part of the road realigned to avoid floods. An inspection ungallow was completed at Kanbawk. Improvements were also made to the communications of the oil-fields at Yenangyaung. The policy of replacing old timber bridges by structures of a more permanent nature was pursued vigorously and a sum of Rs. 3.80 lakhs was spent on such work. During the year four meetings of the Communications Sub-Committee of the Standing Advisory Committee were held. One result of these meetings was the appointment of a selected Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer to draw up schemes of road-construction and to work out proposals for improving communications in each District in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer of each District. All that was done during the year towards the improvement of waterways in the Delta was the construction and completion of surveys and estimates for the major waterways, the improvement of which is contemplated. In the case of three schemes the estimates were sanctioned by the Local Government, in the case of four schemes the necessary land was demarcated and in the case of three schemes was notified for acquisition.

Buildings:
Imperial
and Provin-
cial.

128. A sum of Rs. 3.43 lakhs was expended on Civil Imperial Works as compared with Rs. 6.22 lakhs in the preceding year. The new Customs House at Rangoon was completed. The new Telegraph Office at Rangoon was practically finished. The wireless telegraphy station at Maymyo was completed except for the rainwater pipes for the main building. A loggia was built at Government House, Rangoon. At Thayetmyo an internment-camp, and at Shwebo a sanatorium, were built for Turkish prisoners. Expenditure on Civil Provincial buildings, which in the previous year was Rs. 10.92 lakhs, amounted in the year of report to Rs. 17.50 lakhs, of which Rs. 9.68 lakhs were spent on new works and Rs. 7.82 lakhs on repairs. A sum of Rs. 1.19 lakhs was expended on works at the Insein Central Jail. The construction of a District Court-House at Myingyan to replace the former one destroyed by fire was commenced and progressed satisfactorily. Good progress was made with the necessary buildings at Mawlaik, the designated headquarters of the Upper Chindwin District. Permanent quarters for the Civil Police were completed at 12 police-stations in Lower Burma. Good progress was made with the new Municipal Hospital at Toungoo. A new ward, necessitated by the development of the mining industry, was built at the Tavoy Municipal Hospital. At Rangoon the alterations of the old General Hospital to provide better accommodation for the Government Medical School were taken in hand. These are the most outstanding items in a list of numerous works, completed or in progress during the year on schools, court-houses, jails, hospitals and other Government buildings throughout the Province.

Miscellane-
ous public
improve-
ments and
sanitary
works.

129. During the year the total expenditure throughout the Province on Miscellaneous Public Improvements was Rs. 19.98 lakhs of which Rs. 15.08 lakhs were devoted to new works and Rs. 4.90 lakhs to repairs. The total expenditure in the previous year was Rs. 22.07 lakhs. The work of reclaiming

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA
FOR THE YEAR
1916-17



RANGOON
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, BURMA
1918

or the municipalities of a town committee.

(b) if

Municipalities or areas administered by Town Committees

Towns and Villages which are not Municipalities nor administered by Town Committees

Confinements

Railways completed

Railways in progress

Embankments

Roads

Motor tracks

Longitudinal lines

Light houses and Light-casars



Map OF BURMA

SHOWING

DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS

1916-17

Scale: 64 Miles = 1 inch

Light-houses
Light-casars



REFERENCES.

- Boundary between Lower and Upper Burma.
- District Boundary
- Tributary States
- Divisional and District Headquarters
- District Headquarters (a) if a Municipality
- or the Headquarters of a Town Committee
- (b) if not
- Municipalities or areas administered by Town Committees
- Towns and Villages which are not Municipalities nor administered by Town Committees.
- Customs
- Railways completed
- Railways in progress
- Embankments
- Roads
- Mule roads
- Irrigated areas
- Light houses and light-cassels

BENGAL

CHITTAGONG

LUSHA HILLS

A

S

S

A

N

NAGA TRIBES

UNADMINISTERED

PUTO

WAKTI LONG

PILAW

KAWI KHUANG or VABONG

H

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K

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA

FOR THE YEAR 1916-17.

PART I.

NARRATIVE CHAPTER.

1. The outstanding feature in the history of the Province of Burma has been the rapidity with which it has been developed and drawn into the world-wide organization of markets which is the chief differentiating character of modern times. Lower Burma, which forty years ago was a very thinly populated country of swamps and forests, is now one of the principal rice-exporting areas of the world. In Upper Burma, for the most part a country of scanty rainfall with a system of mixed farming, the stimulation of cotton cultivation owing to the establishment of mills by Indian and European capitalists, and the introduction of groundnut cultivation have in recent years caused an increasing tendency towards the supersession of a local or village economy by a more industrial economy. The Burman, though reputed to be easy-going and improvident, has shown considerable readiness in adapting himself to the rapidly changing conditions, and the greatest achievement in the history of the Province, namely the colonization of Lower Burma, has been almost entirely the work of the Burmese. The main wealth of the country comes from agriculture, and, in spite of the growth of landlordism and of the development, in parts of Lower Burma, of industrial conditions of agriculture, the vast bulk of the land of the Province is worked by peasant-proprietors. In addition to her agricultural wealth, Burma possesses great natural wealth in her teak forests, in her deposits of oil, and in the stores of metalliferous ores, whose possibilities have only of recent years been properly appreciated. For the exploitation of these resources, which is necessary if the needs of the modern world, taken as a whole, be considered, the Burmese have had neither the necessary organization and skill nor the capital, and it has had to depend on European and Indian capital, and very largely on Indian labour, as have the industries connected with agricultural produce for which large capital is required. So, apart from household industries, the industrial occupations of the country are largely in the hands of the immigrant Indian population, while the bulk of the indigenous Burmese population is agricultural.

The history of Burma in 1916-17 is that of a province whose prosperity depends very largely on the demand in the world's markets for the commodities it produces, in the third year of a war which, while it had profoundly disturbed the organization of trade, had caused a greater demand for these commodities.

2. As the vast majority of the population depends on agriculture, the two main factors in the material prosperity of the people are the crops and the prices current for agricultural produce. In 1916-17 both crops and prices were distinctly better than in either of the two preceding lean years. In Lower Burma the monsoon was a favourable one, and, except in the Arakan Division,

administration is the introduction of "lump-sum assessments" over an area of 850 square miles in the Lower Chindwin and Myingyan Districts. By this system, which was first introduced on the re-settlement of the Meiktila District, instead of annual maps and revenue-rolls being maintained for each *kwin*, or unit of assessment, a lump sum is fixed, for the payment of which all the cultivators working in such *kwin* are jointly responsible. The system is applied only in poor localities where cultivation is sparse, and where the cost of the normal method of assessment bears an unduly high proportion to the amount of revenue. The new system benefits Government by reducing the cost of assessment, and also the cultivators, inasmuch as they are saved the trouble incident to the visits of a revenue-surveyor.

The Co-operative Department continued during the year, on a larger scale than ever, its work of teaching the value of organization and proper methods of business, and of demonstrating the benefits of co-operation, and so helping the Burmese to hold their own in rapidly changing economic conditions. The steady expansion of the movement, which has been so conspicuous in recent years, persisted in 1916-17, and there were at the close of the year a total number of 2,575 co-operative societies of all sorts. The vast majority of societies are, of course, agricultural credit societies. The expansion during the year would have been much greater but for the effect of the war in limiting the extent to which the Upper Burma Central Bank, which holds the fluid resources of the whole co-operative movement, could increase its funds. The organization of the societies into central unions, and the devolution of large powers of control and management from Government officials to the unions, were proceeded with during the year. The unions carried out these duties remarkably well. The recently instituted policy of colonizing waste spaces by organized bodies of settlers financed by Government through the medium of co-operative societies, was carried on in five different areas throughout the Province. It is a matter for satisfaction that in the area in which the policy was first started five years ago, in spite of the depression due to the war, and in spite of the colonists having been particularly unfortunate in 1916-17 in the sale of their paddy, there has been no tendency for them to part with their land. The remarkable freedom from cattle-disease enjoyed by the Province in 1915-16 proved an ill wind for the cattle-insurance societies, which are still in their infancy, the premia appearing high relatively to the small benefit actually received. So there was only a moderate expansion in this class of society. The co-operative societies as a body rendered yeoman service in helping to collect small subscriptions to the War Loan.

Among numerous experiments with a multiplicity of plants, the most economically important research work done by the Agricultural Department was the development of improved strains of paddy which will combine high yielding capacity with suitability for the European market. Experiments were made with imported Javanese and Japanese plants, in the hope of finding strains suitable for areas with poor conditions of soil or rainfall. The most promising result of experiments with imported cottons is a cross between Broach cotton and the long-lived Burma variety, which, it is hoped, will combine the finer and longer staple of the former with the larger outturn of the latter. Large quantities of seed of selected varieties of paddy were distributed during the year.

4. The exploitation of the natural wealth of the Province was prosecuted with energy. The year was a busy one in the forests. The urgent need of timber of all sorts in Mesopotamia, and the strong demand for teak in India owing to the requirements of the Military Department and the impossibility of obtaining metal building materials, combined with the fact that the season was a favourable one for the extra tion of timber, resulted in a marked increase in the quantities extracted both of teak and of other sorts of timber. There was also increased extraction of fuel, owing to the difficulty of obtaining coal for the railway engines and steamers of the Province. In mining too there was unusual liveliness. In the previous year, owing to the clamant need of wolfram for the manufacture of high-speed steel, there had been remarkable activity in wolfram-mining, especially in the Tavoy District. This activity was enhanced in 1916. The Local

Government took special measures to increase the output. The staff of officials was strengthened. The shortage of labour was met by the importation of Indian and Chinese coolies by Government agency. Large sums were expended on improving communications. In response to these measures the output of wolfram increased markedly. In the Northern Shan States, the Burma Mines Company, in spite of being hampered by difficulty in importing materials, made immense strides in developing the mines at Bawdwin. The output of both silver and zinc was vastly increased, and that of lead more than maintained.

The activity in tin mining, which has marked the last few years, was in 1916 more in evidence than ever. The expectation that this industry will expand very much beyond its present limits is made more probable by the discovery during the year of valuable deposits of tin in the Thaton District.

Apart from these new developments, the normal exploitation of the mineral wealth of the Province proceeded apace. The output of petroleum, 292 million gallons, is the largest on record. Prospecting for minerals, especially for wolfram in Tavoy, was remarkably active.

5. In spite of the fact that a phenomenal rise in prices makes it difficult to compare the volume of trade with that of previous years, it is beyond question that, in 1916-17, the trade of the Province made an appreciable recovery from the set-back immediately ensuing on the outbreak of war. The aggregate value of the sea-borne external trade of the Province during the year was Rs. 69.88 lakhs, a figure 22 per cent. in advance of the previous year's, and exceeded only in the particularly prosperous years 1912-13 and 1913-14. The improvement in trade took place in spite of a falling-off in the total tonnage of the ships entering and leaving the ports of the Province. The number of vessels actually increased, owing to a large rise in the numbers of small sailing craft engaged in the coasting trade. But the number of steamers continued to decline. Among these steamers the British flag was less in evidence than in the previous year, while the proportion of Japanese ships increased considerably, and that of Dutch ships strikingly. The noteworthy features of the year were a fall in exportations to the United Kingdom, increased importation of manufactured articles from Japan, and of cotton goods from India.

Among imports into Rangoon cotton goods easily held pride of place. The outstanding feature in the year's increased importations was the extent to which goods of Indian manufacture, both piece-goods and yarns, replaced Lancashire goods. The general increase in the cost of living caused a heavy fall in importations of silk, more or less a luxury article. Yet it is clear that all classes did not feel the need to economize, as the value of motor cars and motor cycles imported was nearly double that of any previous year. As was to be expected, there was a marked fall in importation of ores and metals. On the other hand, importations of hardware rose, Japan's contribution increasing strikingly. Shortage in the United Kingdom was responsible for a decrease in importation of provisions, and also in importation of sugar from Java. The quantity of alcoholic liquors imported was very much smaller than usual. But importations of salt, in consequence of a threatened shortage, were the largest on record.

The real improvement in trade lay chiefly in increased exportation to countries other than India. Among exports from Rangoon, rice was easily first in importance. In spite of abnormally high freights and shortage of tonnage, the quantity exported, nearly 2½ million tons, was greater than in the previous year and surprisingly little less than in the years immediately preceding the war. Over a million tons went to India. The United Kingdom, taking over 300,000 tons, more than ever before, was the next best customer. The Straits Settlements, Ceylon and the Dutch East Indies took most of the remainder. Difficulty in importing oil into India from America and the Dutch East Indies, and the need of petrol for the military authorities in India and Mesopotamia were the prime factors in causing an increase in exportations of mineral oils to 156 million gallons, a record figure. Owing to the demand for paraffin wax for making munitions in the United Kingdom, America and Japan, there was a substantial increase in exportations of that commodity. There was an improvement in the teak trade,

too, mainly owing to the demand in India. A strong demand in the United Kingdom led to increased exportation of groundnut oil, white beans, and also of cotton. War requirements were responsible for a strong demand for the rapidly increasing output of rubber and wolfram, and exportations of both these commodities were easily the largest on record.

The value of transfrontier trade, Rs. 948 lakhs, was substantially greater than in the previous year. The main factor in the improvement was an increase in the material supplied to, and in the output of metals from, the Burma Mines Company's property in the Northern Shan States. Apart from this, the actual volume of trade diminished, though the rise in prices obscures the extent of the decline.

6. A large increase in the total revenue, accompanied by practically no increase in the total expenditure, is the feature of note in the finances of the Province for the year. The gross receipts of revenue were Rs. 12,72 lakhs, some Rs. 130 lakhs more than in the previous year, while the gross expenditure rose by only half a lakh to Rs. 876 lakhs. There was no change in the Provincial Settlement according to which the receipts from the various sources of income and the expenditure of the various departments is distributed between the Imperial and the Provincial budgets. Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 429 lakhs, some Rs. 64 lakhs more than in the previous year, while Provincial receipts increased by Rs. 39 lakhs to Rs. 593 lakhs. The largest contribution to the rise in Imperial receipts came from Customs, as a result partly of enhanced customs dues and partly of improved trade. Receipts from Salt were greatly increased owing to increased importation and increased manufacture, and the enhancement of both the customs and the excise duty. Income-tax yielded more than in the previous year, entirely as a result of enhanced rates. A large increase in revenue from Forests is the principal item in the increase in Provincial receipts. Both Imperial and Provincial receipts benefited by increased returns from Land Revenue, Excise and Stamps. In consequence of reduction of outlay on public works, both Imperial and Provincial expenditure fell, the former by Rs. 11 lakhs to Rs. 62 lakhs and the latter by Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 559 lakhs.

The war has had very little adverse effect on the ordinary income of municipalities. The ordinary income of the Rangoon Municipality increased, as did the total income of the minor municipalities. The expenditure of the minor municipalities decreased, owing to enforced economies. In Rangoon there was a decrease in the ordinary expenditure, but, as it was impossible to borrow money, payments had to be made from revenue for works for which loans will ultimately be raised, a policy which led to the municipal banking account being seriously overdrawn.

Practically all the other Funds of the Province were in a healthy condition during the year.

7. The war has compelled the curtailment of the activities of the various Government departments and public authorities responsible for the construction and maintenance of public works and the supply of public services. Owing to the necessity for economy, the total expenditure on public works executed by the Public Works Department for all departments of Government and for local Funds, fell to Rs. 125 lakhs, some 11 per cent. less than in the previous year. New works have been undertaken only when urgently required. The improvement of communications in the Tavoy District received special attention with a view to increasing the output of wolfram. Elsewhere, expenditure on roads was mainly devoted to the replacement of old timber bridge by permanent structures of steel and concrete. To organize and co-ordinate schemes for the construction of the roads which the Province so urgently needs, two officers were placed on special duty to draw up programmes of road-construction for each District in the Province. In other respects, apart from the maintenance of existing works, little was accomplished during the year. At Rangoon a new Customs House and a new Telegraph Office were completed. The sites of several low-lying towns in the Delta were reclaimed. A camp at Thayetmyo and a sanatorium at Shwebo were built for Turkish prisoners of war interned in the Province.

The war has adversely affected municipal administration, both by making it impossible for municipalities to borrow money for any large works, and also by making unprocurable, or procurable only at prohibitive prices, the imported materials for works for which funds are available. Rangoon, which depends most on borrowed funds, has been the worst affected. Expenditure on roads was less than half the amount spent in the previous year. Improvements in street-lighting, in the water-supply and to the slaughter-houses were the only items of work accomplished, apart from the ordinary administration. Difficulty in obtaining materials hampered the execution of schemes in hand in the case of several of the minor municipalities. Apart from this, their administration was satisfactorily carried on during the year. In view of the successful administration in recent years of certain municipalities in which the non-official element is strong, the Local Government had under consideration the question of entrusting these municipalities to non-official committees. In the year of report, however, the interest evinced in the elections in those municipalities in which the elective system is in force, was disappointingly little.

The Medical Department suffered from the absence, on military duty, both of military doctors and of civil doctors who have gone as volunteers. Fortunately, the year was a very healthy one, so that the trouble that might have arisen from the dearth of doctors was not realized. The number of public medical institutions was increased during the year and provided relief for an increased number of patients. Substantial grants were made from Government funds to several societies for the prevention of infantile mortality, in the hope of reducing the appalling waste of infant life. Three new societies were formed. The marked fall in infantile mortality during the year is probably due to other causes. But such societies can probably claim some credit for the urban death-rate being much lower than the rural.

8. The year witnessed no diminution of the continuous increase of crime which has been the most disquieting feature in the administration of the Province. The volume of crime taken cognizance of by the police exceeded all previous limits, and the number of cases dealt with by the criminal courts showed a like advance. Violent crimes increased, murders, dacoities and burglaries being all more numerous than in the previous year. But the most marked increase was in cases of theft, due to poor harvests and depression of trade in 1915-16. The problem presented by the increase of crime received particular attention during the year. Special investigations into the causes of crime were made. In recognition of the fact that the best method of coping with crime probably lies in the improvement of village administration and bringing the administration of justice more into touch with local opinion, the Local Government had under consideration a scheme for the formation of benches of headmen to exercise magisterial and executive functions in groups of village-tracts. The increase of crime is doubtless in part attributable to the police being hampered by additional duties entailed by the war, and the absence of a large proportion of the officers on military duty. In spite of these disadvantages, the success of the police in the detection of crime, viewing all classes of crime as a whole, was maintained at the same level as in recent years, though there was a falling off in success in dealing with the most serious classes of offence. The overcrowding of the jails, the corollary of the growth of crime, continued, and would have been worse than ever before, had not special measures been taken in order to its reduction. Over a thousand prisoners, who were deemed fit subjects for clemency, were released during the year. Schemes for further relief by employing convicts on public works were under consideration. The repeated exhortations of the Local Government bore fruit in a reduction in the number of sentences of imprisonment in the courts, notably in short-term sentences. In consequence of a fall in the number of first offenders released on probation, and of a considerable proportion of the fines imposed remaining unrealized, the Local Government again called the attention of Magistrates to the necessity of releasing first offenders in all suitable cases, and also of not imposing excessive fines. In the hope of reducing crime by the moral uplifting of youthful offenders, an interesting experiment was started by the

opening, in conjunction with the Salvation Army, of a home at Rangoon for young released prisoners.

9. There were several notable new departures in the administration of education during the year. In order to bring the control of education more into touch with local opinion, both official and non-official, a Divisional School Board was created for each Division of the Province. These Boards took over from the Education Department the control of vernacular education in their several areas. The Rangoon School Board was formed to fulfil the same function in Rangoon. A committee was appointed to deal with the question of female education in the Province and made recommendations, mainly in the direction of emphasizing the importance of teaching girls domestic economy and needlework. Another committee considered the best methods of inculcating the Imperial Idea and fostering patriotism within the Empire among the Burmese. The training course for teachers in the Normal Schools was revised during the year. Apart from these novel features, the expansion of education took place at the normal rate. Both the number of public schools and the number of scholars in attendance increased, the increase being shared by all classes of institution except lower primary schools. The numbers of pupils passing the various school examinations were in every case considerably higher than in the previous year, as were the numbers who passed the Calcutta University examinations for degrees. Expenditure on education, in a year when the war imposed the necessity of the strictest economy on all Government departments, was a lakh and a half of rupees more than in the previous year, and amounted to Rs. 67 lakhs. A most gratifying feature, in view of the needs of the Province for doctors, engineers and scientific experts of all sorts, and the aptitude of the Burman for such professions, is the increasing interest taken in scientific and allied subjects. The science classes at the two colleges are expanding and attracting many of the best students. The number of graduates in Science increased strikingly. The number of students at the Government Medical School was much greater than in the previous year, and the educational qualifications of the newcomers is improving. Sixteen students, of whom ten, including one lady, were Burmese, passed the final qualifying examination, a number more than twice the average of the last five years. The number of students at the Government School of Engineering at Insein has reached the maximum possible with the present inadequate staff and equipment, and the reconstitution of the school on a larger scale is under consideration.

10. There was no cessation in the great decline in the publication of books that has accompanied the war. Curiously enough, the reduction is most marked in the case of books on religious subjects, while books dealing with the war are conspicuous by their absence. The most significant feature in the literary output of the year is the large number of novels, depicting modern Burmese life, written in language very near to colloquial Burmese and modelled on the pattern of the modern English novel. Most of these novels are crude pieces of work. Much of the psychology is borrowed from the English models, and the influence of the cinema is easily traceable in the construction. And a satisfactory compromise between the old-fashioned literary language and the vastly different colloquial language has not yet been attained. But the quality of these works is improving rapidly. In archaeology, an important discovery resulted from the study of the frescoes found in 1916 at Minnanthu near Pagan. The evidence of these frescoes establishes what hitherto has been merely a conjectural theory, namely that before the introduction of the southern school of Buddhism on the conquest of Thaton by Anawrata in the eleventh century, Buddhism of the northern school was in vogue at Pagan. It appears to have been introduced from Bengal or northern India about the sixth century.

11. In the Shan States and on the north-east frontier the year generally was quiet and uneventful. There was some excitement, but nothing more, on the Burma side of the Chinese frontier, as a result of the opposition aroused across the border by the efforts of the Chinese officials to eradicate poppy-cultivation. Apart

from mining activity in the Northern Shan States and in Karenni, and an improvement in the teak-trade in the latter, trade everywhere was dull. Crops were generally good, and the year was a healthy one for man and beast. There was very little serious crime. In the Chin Hills the cordial response among the Northern Chins to the call for volunteers for the Labour Corps was the outstanding event of the year.

12. No narrative of the events of the year in Burma would be complete without a reference to the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy, which took place in December 1916. Burma has hitherto been unfortunate in the fact that the visits of Viceroys have generally taken place during the last year of their Viceroyalty, and before the results of such visits could be expected to mature, the high office of Viceroy has been occupied by a new incumbent. In the case of His Excellency Lord Chelmsford this practice has been reversed, and the Province may expect to benefit thereby by a greater appreciation at Delhi and Simla of her needs and her resources. As in other Provinces, every department of administration in Burma has been short-handed. Some important charges have had to be combined under single officers, and others entrusted to officers of lower status and less experience than has been found possible in normal times. A notable feature has been the demonstration of the capacity of the Burman, as well as of the potentialities of the Province. Burmans have been recruited for the Military Police and for the Army to an extent which only a short time ago would have been considered impossible, and this fact alone may be accepted as a happy augury for the future development of Burma and her people. While the war lasts, it is impossible for much progress to be made in communications, agricultural, commercial and industrial development; but the moment that the pressure of the war is relaxed the time will be ripe for great strides forward in the desired directions. On the political side, also, there is great scope for future development; but it is absolutely essential for the welfare of Burma and her people that the foundations for this development should be well and truly laid.

PART II.

DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

NOTE.—The departmental reports and other references on which this *Report on the Administration of Burma* is based, are noted at the beginning of each chapter. The departmental reports do not all cover the same period. The Reports on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice, the Police, Prisons, the Registration Department, the Salt Revenue, the Measures adopted for the Extermination of Wild Animals and Poisonous Snakes, Lunatic Asylums, the Report of the Chemical Examiner, the Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and the Resolution on the Reports on Village Administration deal with events which took place within the calendar year 1916; the Shan States, Chin Hills and North-Eastern Frontier Reports, the Land Revenue, Land Records, and Forest Administration Reports, the Season and Crop Report, the Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act, and the Report of the Department of Agriculture are concerned with the agricultural year from the 1st July 1916 to the close of June 1917. All other reports cover the twelve months of the official or financial year that ended on the 31st March 1917.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

REFERENCES—

- Report on the Administration of the Shan and Karenni States for the year ended the 30th June 1917.
- Report on the Administration of the Chin Hills for the year ended the 30th June 1917.
- Report on the North-Eastern Frontier for the year ended the 30th June 1917.
- Season and Crop Report of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1917.
- Land Records Administration Report of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1917.
- Report on the Civil Veterinary Department (including the Insein Veterinary School), Burma, for the year ended the 31st March 1917.
- Report on the Sanitary Administration of Burma for the year 1916.

PHYSICAL.

Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate, and Chief Staples.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 1 to 8 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

POLITICAL.

Historical Summary.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 9 to 18 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Form of Administration.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 19 to 38 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12 and to paragraph 1 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1914-15.

Character of Land Tenures: System of Survey and Settlement.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 39 to 55 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Civil Divisions of British Territory.

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For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 56 to 68 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12 and to paragraph 2 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1914-15.

Details of the last Census : Tribes and Languages.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 69 to 76 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Changes in the Administration.

The
Lieutenant-
Governor.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., was Lieutenant-Governor of Burma throughout the year.

Adminis-
trative
territorial
changes.

2. A new Township, called the Syriam Township, in the Kyauktan Subdivision of the Hanthawaddy District, was created with effect from the 1st June 1916, consisting of Syriam Town and eighteen village-tracts which were transferred from the Kyauktan Township. Two village-tracts were excluded from the Kyaukpadaung Township of the Myingyan District and included in the Taungtha Township of the same District. With effect from the 1st July 1916, the reconstituted Sale Township of the Myingyan District was transferred to the Magwe District. The eastern and southern boundaries respectively of the Shwegu and Bhamo Townships of the Bhamo District were revised during the year. Eleven village-tracts were excluded from the Kyaukkyi and included in the Shwegyin Township of the Toungoo District. The boundaries of the Kamaing Township, and the boundary between the Myitkyina and the Mogaung Townships of the Myitkyina District were renotified, a more accurate description of the boundaries being given in both cases. A portion of the Lemyethna Forest Reserve was transferred from the Ngathainggyaung Township of the Bassein District to the Lemyethna Township of the Henzada District, so as to make the boundary between the Henzada and Bassein Districts coincide with the southern boundary of the Lemyethna Forest Reserve.

Additions to
and changes
in the Ad-
ministrative
Staff.

3. An increase of one in the fourth grade of the Subordinate Civil Service was made in order to provide for the Township Officer of the newly-created Syriam Township. One appointment was added to the fourth grade of the Provincial Civil Service on account of an officer being appointed as Assistant Superintendent at Namtu in the Northern Shan States. The third grade of the Provincial Judicial Service was increased by one owing to the creation of the appointment of second Additional Judge for the Court of Small Causes at Rangoon. In February 1916 His Majesty's Secretary of State sanctioned a scheme distributing among the several grades of Deputy Commissioners certain superior appointments in the Burma Commission. As the necessary provision had not been made in the Budget for 1915-16, it was decided to postpone the introduction of the scheme, which was, however, brought into effect from the 1st January 1917.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

(i) Shan and Karenni States.

[Southern Shan States : 37 States, area 36,154 square miles, population 836,574, tribute Rs. 2,71,800 ; Karenni : five States, area 4,280 square miles, population 63,628, tribute Rs. 5,350 ; Northern Shan States : five States, area 16,594 square miles, population 480,390, tribute Rs. 1,54,500 ; Ming Shi : area 3,562 square miles, population 53,214, tribute Rs. 20,000 ; Hsawnghsup (Thaungthut) : area 579 square miles, population 7,784, tribute Rs. 400 ; Singhaling Khamti (Zingalein Kanti) : area 983 square miles, population 2,560, tribute Rs. 100 ; Khamti Lōng (Kanti-gyi) or Bhor Khamti : area 374 square miles, population (approximate) 6,661, tribute Rs. 2,500 (approximate).]

The
Southern
Shan,
States.

4. In the Southern Shan States imports and exports again declined and trade generally was dull. With few exceptions, however, crops were good and the

condition of the people was satisfactory. Peace was maintained and there was but little serious crime. As usual there were several destructive fires, one at Aungban in April destroying property to the value of over one lakh of rupees. The development of Kalaw as a hill station continued. The *Ngwegunhm* of Nam Hkai having died without issue, that State was in April united with Loi Long. The eldest son of the late *Myosa* of Mōng Hsu was placed in charge of that State pending arrangements as to the succession. The administration of the Chiefs was generally satisfactory. In well-ordered States improvement was maintained and, except in Mōng Nawng and Hsa Mōng Hkam, the less efficient Chiefs got through the year without any serious trouble. The *Myosa* of Mōng Nawng again ran into debt and resorted to highly improper means to procure money for his extravagances. In Hsa Mōng Hkam collections of revenue were made at rates much in excess of those sanctioned, and the proceeds were misappropriated. All Chiefs maintained guards at important roads and ferries to prevent the entry of seditionists. The Chiefs of the Southern Shan States gave effect to their resolution to do something as a body to help the Empire by joining in the Bu ma War Fund. Their personal contributions and collections, apart from subscriptions to various war charities, amounted to Rs. 1,62,777. They also took a full share in making the Indian War Loan a success, and over ten lakhs of rupees were subscribed during the year.

On the Chinese border rumours of disorder were current from time to time, but as a matter of fact conditions have been practically normal in the country immediately adjoining British territory. Three dacoities and a robbery with murder were committed by Chinese marauders from across the border. The disturbed conditions in Yunnan were responsible for the unusual strength, both in numbers and armament, of the caravans that visited Kengtūng during the year. Two large parties gave trouble as they declined to hand over their weapons to the local officials. On the appearance of a force of military police, however, they surrendered their arms, which were returned to them on their departure. The anti-opium campaign was vigorously prosecuted by the Republican Government. Crops were destroyed, in spite of opposition, in Hsip Hsawng Panna, Keng Hung and Mōng Lem. Conditions in the Mekong Province, the portion of French Indo-China that borders on British territory, were fairly satisfactory and martial law is no longer in force there. The Siamese border was entirely peaceful.

The number of cases reported during the year to the Government Police was 254 as against 289 in the previous year. There was a large decrease at Taunggyi and a large increase at Kalaw. Out of 103 persons sent up for trial 79 were convicted. The work of the State Police varied in quality from State to State. In Yawnghwe recoveries of stolen cattle and property fell. In the Myelat the police on the whole did good work. In the North-Eastern States police work was bad in Kehsi Mansam and fair elsewhere. The Kengtūng Police got somewhat out of hand during the *Sawbwa's* absence but were fairly successful in dealing with cattle-theft. The number of true cases reported during the year was 1,255 as against 1,198 in 1913-14. These comprise 39 violent crimes, 175 cases of cattle-theft, 305 cases of ordinary theft and 736 cases of other forms of crime. Violent crime increased by 12, ordinary theft by 12, and other crime by 54, while cattle-theft decreased by 21. The violent crimes comprised 18 murders, 6 robberies with murder, 3 cases of culpable homicide, one attempted murder, 3 dacoities and 8 robberies. Five of the murders were committed by lunatics. There were 39 suits pending at the beginning of the year, 753 were filed during the year, 765 were disposed of leaving 27 pending at the close of the year. The total value of the 753 suits filed was Rs. 1,09,637 as against 738 suits valued at Rs. 1,08,318 last year. Over 68 per cent. of the suits filed were under Rs. 100 in value, only 14 were valued at over Rs. 1,000 and only one exceeded Rs. 5,000. Yawnghwe State is responsible for one-third of the total number of suits.

Everywhere except at Kalaw the rainfall was much greater than in the previous year. At Yawnghwe it was the greatest ever recorded and floods caused damage. Crops of hill rice were good everywhere and the main crop on irrigated land was well up to the average. The area under wheat increased but outturns declined.

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The year was an exceptionally healthy one for cattle, in spite of epidemic disease in the North-Eastern States and in Kengtūng. Forest revenue for the year was Rs. 1,65,783 and expenditure Rs. 95,140. There were 44 forest offences of which 42 were compounded for a total sum of Rs. 461. Four applications for prospecting licenses were pending from the previous year and 30 were received during the year of report. Of these 12 were granted, 8 rejected and 5 withdrawn while 9 were pending at the close of the year. There are five mining leases in force, all for lead. The output from the three mines that were working was 39,542 viss of pure lead and some 1,000 viss of ore. Little success attended the efforts of many of the prospectors for wolfram, but 10,385 lbs. were exported from Mawnang State. Of the public works carried out by Government the most important were at Kalaw. The scheme for the distribution of water, though not yet completed, was advanced sufficiently for water to be available during the greater part of the year. A drainage scheme and the construction of a bazaar were in hand during the year, and some four miles of road were opened up. The ward for Shan patients at the Loilem Hospital was finished. The steel bridge over the Tayaw stream was completed, and several wooden bridges on the main road were replaced by structures of reinforced concrete. The total expenditure was Rs. 2.09 lakhs on construction and repairs, and some Rs. 55,000 on contribution works. The States spent on public works a total sum of Rs. 3.38 lakhs as against Rs. 4.10 lakhs in the previous year. Most of the expenditure was on roads and communications.

In most of the States the year was a healthy one for man and beast. Food-stuffs were plentiful and generally cheaper than in the previous year. The cost of imported articles rose, but was not excessive. No class suffered severely from the effects of the war, except the timber-traders and the money-lenders who refused to finance them. The total revenue collected by the States was just under Rs. 12 lakhs as against Rs. 12.02 lakhs in the previous year. The number of patients treated at hospitals and dispensaries under the supervision of the Civil Surgeon, Taunggyi, was 44,467 outdoor and 1,328 indoor. The former class increased by 882 and the latter decreased by 81 as compared with the previous year. The patients attending hospitals under the supervision of the Civil Surgeon, Loilem, numbered 12,788 outdoor and 715 indoor. There was a satisfactory increase both at Loilem and Kengtūng and a falling-off at Nammawngūn. There was a slight epidemic of a mild type of plague at Kengtūng and 500 people were inoculated. The American Baptist Mission Hospital at Mong Mai did another year's good work. The establishment under the Civil Surgeon, Taunggyi, performed 18,770 vaccinations of which 17,743 were successful. In the Kengtūng State 3,356 persons were vaccinated, 2,889 successfully.

The two Deputy Inspectors of Schools, one at Taunggyi and one at Loilem had under their charge a total number of 145 vernacular public schools, with a total number of 4,085 pupils of whom 1,147 were girls. At present the progress of education is hampered by the lack of qualified local teachers. Lack of funds unfortunately prevented the establishment of the projected training school for teachers at Yawnghwe. But the best of the monastic schools are turning out trained pupils who find positions as teachers. The number of boys in attendance at the school for the Sons of Shan Chiefs at Taunggyi was 88, the limit of its present capacity. Eighty-seven boys were presented for examination in the various standards and 53 passed. One boy has reached the 10th Standard. The conduct of the pupils generally was satisfactory.

The Karenni
States.

5. Except for the refusal of some Wiwa villages in Kyebogyi near the Loungoo border to pay the increased taxes demanded of them, the administration of the Karenni States was uneventful. The year witnessed an improvement in the timber trade, on which the prosperity of practically all classes depends, and prospects were distinctly brighter at its close than at its beginning. The price of teak rose slightly and a great deal of timber was sold. The rainfall was better than it has been for several years and with few exceptions crops were good. Importations of food-stuffs were in consequence much less than in the previous year. Cattle were generally healthy.

Increased activity was shown in the development of the Mawchi mines and the output of concentrates—consisting of tin and wolfram in approximately equal quantities—rose from 368 tons in 1915-16 to 670 tons. At the Lokalo deposits on the western side some promising veins were struck. Trade was much better than in the previous year, and there was marked expansion in the exportation of both lac and hides.

Conditions on the border were satisfactory and relations with the Siamese officials were cordial. The chiefs continued to keep watch on the Salween ferries and important roads, to guard against the entry of evilly-disposed persons. One hundred and forty-four cases came before the Courts comprising 4 violent crimes, 38 cattle-thefts, 32 ordinary thefts and 70 "other crimes." All the violent crimes were murders or homicides. In two cases the accused were sentenced to transportation for life and in the other two, which were homicide cases, compensation was paid in accordance with Karen custom. Of the 38 cases of cattle-theft, only 16 were brought to Court, 28 out of 38 persons apprehended being convicted, and the others discharged. Twelve civil cases were pending at the beginning of the year; 60 new suits were filed; and 10 remained at the close of the year. The value of the 60 new suits was Rs. 59,249 and all but two were in respect of money transactions. About one-third of the suits were under Rs. 100 in value.

The gross revenue of the five Karenni States rose from Rs. 172 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 190 lakhs. In Kantarawaddi collections were Rs. 134 lakhs as against an estimate of Rs. 88,000, an increase entirely due to enhanced receipts of forest revenue. The reserve fund stands at Rs. 80,000 invested partly in Exchequer Bonds and partly in Indian War Loan Bonds. The expenditure on public works in the States was Rs. 22,578 from revenue and Rs. 2,500 from remissions of tribute. In Kantarawaddi the most important work was the Lokaw-Tisaka road which cost Rs. 16,509. Over Rs. 2,000 was usefully spent in blasting rocks in the Me-Pai stream. The Lokaw Civil Hospital treated 5,806 outdoor and 141 indoor patients as against 6,508 and 129 respectively in 1915. The Education Department dealt with 39 schools as against 34 last year and 27 in 1914-15. Of the five new schools taken under control three belong to the American Baptist Mission and two are monastic. The number of pupils under instruction is 545 boys and 177 girls.

6. In the Northern Shan States the year of report was one of tranquillity. The only considerable disturbance of the peace was a half-hearted rebellion in the Manglun State, which was promptly quashed. The *Myaw* of Mothai in this State was suspected of sympathy with the attempted rising and also gave trouble by engaging in hostilities with the Wa Chief of Motle. There was considerable unrest during the open season in the Chinese Shan States across the border owing to the genuine efforts made by the Chinese officials to carry out the orders for the suppression of opium. There was fighting between the Chinese troops and the Kachins in Lungchu'an and later farther north in Santa. The fears of the Chinese authorities that Kachins from North Hsenwi might be involved proved groundless and the Kachins on the British side of the border did not show the slightest desire to join in the fray. Some complaints were made of British subjects planting opium in fields across the border, or letting their fields to Chinese subjects for opium cultivation. The crops had been destroyed by the Chinese officials before investigation could be made, but heavy fines were imposed in all cases where it was proved that the orders prohibiting the working of opium across the border had been infringed. The usual frontier meeting with the Chinese officials for the joint settlement of cases was held in January. Relations, though not marked by the extreme cordiality of the previous year, were at any rate friendly.

The sanctioned strength and caste composition of the military police was unchanged during the year. The health of the men was good, as was their discipline and their relations with the people of the country. The strength of the Government Civil Police Force remained the same during the year. Its discipline and conduct were fairly good. Three hundred and one cases were reported during the year to the Government Police. There were 13 violent crimes reported. There were 42 cases of cattle-theft as against 35 in the previous year. There

The North
Shan
States.

were two serious cases of rioting among the coolies of the Burma Mines Company at Bawdwin. In one of these the volunteers had to be called out to repress some strikers who refused to leave the Company's premises and were intimidating other workmen. Twelve of the ringleaders of the strikers were deported.

The work of the State Police in the various States was not as efficient as it might have been. At Hsenwi the State Police were reorganised and statistics appeared for the first time. Frontier guards of village police were maintained in Hsipaw, South Hsenwi, and Manglun to watch for seditionists from Siam. The total number of offences reported during the year was 1,314 as compared with 1,103 in the previous year. The increase in the number of cases is due to the formation of a new Subdivision at Namtu and the increase of work on the premises of the Burma Mines Company, to a large number of prosecutions under the Municipal Act at Lashio, to prosecutions in North Hsenwi of persons who let their fields to Chinese subjects for opium-cultivation and to a number of prosecutions in South Hsenwi for contravention of the rules for the prevention of the spread of cattle disease. Violent crimes decreased from 43 to 26. The total number of cases of cattle-theft increased from 83 to 105. The number of civil suits filed in the courts of Government Officers rose from 92 to 133. The increase is largely due to the establishment of a civil court at Namtu and the admission therein of suits which ought to have gone to the Courts of the States. The number of suits filed in the States' Courts decreased from 384 to 283.

The year's rainfall was very unevenly distributed. In places the rainfall was above the normal, and in places much below it. The early and middle rains were plentiful and well distributed in some places, and failed in others. The October rains failed everywhere. The crop of upland rice was good throughout. Crops of lowland rice were excellent in some localities and very poor in others. On the whole the outturn of lowland paddy was short but was compensated for by the abundance of upland paddy. The tea crop was not so abundant as usual and prices were poor. There was a good crop of sessamum but prices were low. The year's crop of oranges was not good though the area continues to expand. The tobacco crop was poor owing to the lack of rain in October, and prices rose. The opium crop did splendidly. The chief feature of the forest administration of the year was the large quantities of fuel and timber extracted by the Burma Mines Company from the Panghai Reserve and adjacent unclassified areas. Immense strides were made by the Burma Mines Company in the development of the mines at Namtu and Bawdwin, in spite of difficulties in obtaining supplies. Good progress was made with tunnelling at the various levels, and with the construction of improved milling, smelting and refining machinery. Fourteen thousand one hundred and sixty-eight tons of refined lead and 5,222,489 ounces of refined silver were produced. Improvements to the railway continued to be made and during the year the tonnage transported amounted to some 236,000 tons. The electric plant installed last year was brought into operation in September 1916. The accommodation for both European and Asiatic employees was improved. Two large barracks of sun-dried bricks were built. Several bungalows for Europeans were built at Namtu and Bawdwin, and a new dining-hall was added to the residential club.

The total allotment for expenditure on public works in the Hsipaw State was Rs. 2.30 lakhs as against an expenditure of Rs. 1.68 lakhs in the previous year. The principal works in hand were the Ta-tung-ang suspension bridge, which was nearly completed, and the development of Hsipaw Town. In Tawngpeng the total expenditure was Rs. 1.57 lakhs, of which Rs. 53,000 went to the construction of a Court-house, and most of the remainder on roads and ferries. In the other States useful work was done on the construction and improvement of roads and bridges.

There were slight epidemics of plague in Kyaukme and Hsipaw, and one of small-pox in North Hsenwi. There was an outbreak of rinderpest in Hsipaw, but it was severe in only two circles. Rinderpest also broke out in North and South Hsenwi. Generally the condition of the people was prosperous. The war has caused loss principally to the big shopkeepers along the railway line and the people of the interior are not seriously affected by the prevalent high prices of imported articles. The Kachins and Was, thanks to a phenomenal opium crop which fetched big prices, were unusually prosperous. Steps were taken to encourage

sericulture, in case opium-cultivation should be restricted after the war. As part of a movement to train Shans as mechanics four boys were sent down to the Engineering School at Insein. Many more would have been sent but for lack of accommodation. In order to provide facilities for education in agriculture in the Hsipaw State, arrangements were made for opening a State farm at Hsumhsai. Arrangements were also made for introducing co-operative societies in Hsipaw. The revenue of all the States showed an increase on the previous year's figures except in the case of Hsipaw. In Hsipaw expenditure exceeded receipts. The finances of the State, however, are quite healthy as the deficit is due to the fact that owing to the lateness of the season a large part of the tea-revenue remained uncollected.

A State dispensary was opened at Namhsan in Tawngpeng and by arrangement with the Burma Mines Company the general public were admitted to the Company's hospital and dispensaries. At all the institutions in the States for which statistics are available, the number of out-patients treated was 60,921 and of in-patients was 2,614. There was a total increase of 21,583 out-patients, including an increase of 1,156 at Government and State institutions. In-patients increased by 653 but there was a falling-off of 67 in Government and State institutions. In connection with the outbreaks of plague at Kyaukse and Hsipaw, 6,920 inoculations were performed. The total number of vaccinations performed was 8,133 as against 6,293 in the previous year.

A second Deputy Inspector of Schools was appointed for the States during the year, to supervise education in Tawngpeng and Hsipaw. The number of schools increased from 44 to 47, four new schools having been registered and one abolished. Of the 47 schools the only Government Institution is the Vernacular School at Lashio. 27 are State-managed, 9 belong to the American Baptist Mission, 8 are monastic schools and 2 are run by lay managers. The attendance increased during the year from 1,856 to 2,166, which figure includes 638 girls. There were 87 pupils receiving secondary education as against 67 in the previous year.

7. In Mōng Mit the year was tranquil and uneventful. There was a marked improvement in the State's finances, the revenue rising by Rs. 44,815 to Rs. 222 lakhs. The expenditure increased by Rs. 7,445 to Rs. 182 lakhs and there was a closing balance of Rs. 114 lakhs. Rainfall was poor and the main rice crop suffered in the Shweli area. Elephants were a scourge and, unless measures are taken to cope with them, there is a danger that they will depopulate the State. Old established villages are being abandoned owing to their depredations. And though settlers are anxious to come from Bhamo and Katha to take up the large areas of paddy-land available, fear of elephants keeps them back. There was no epidemic disease in the State during the year. There were 129 true criminal cases during the year. There were 99 civil suits instituted, the total value being some Rs. 9,000. A sum of Rs. 26,021 was spent on public works. In the Kodaung Hill Tracts crops were good, and the year was a quiet one. No difficulty was experienced in collecting the tribute, which amounted to Rs. 22,460. Progress was made with the settlement of village boundaries. In the Thawngdūt and Kanti States in the Upper Chindwin District, there was no considerable trouble on the frontier. The maintenance of a military police post at Kanti prevented all raiding of administered villages. In Thawngdūt crops were good and trade with Manipur proceeded as usual. In Kanti trade was stagnant.

(ii) The Chin Hills.

[The Chin Hills proper, area approximately 8,000 square miles, population 119,556; the Pabhek Hill Tracts, area approximately 9,300 square miles, population 17,128; Hill District of Achan, area 1,300 square miles, population 22,234; and tracts in the Upper Chindwin, Akyab and Kyaukpadaung Districts.]

8. The raising of a Labour Corps for France was the outstanding event of the year in the Chin Hills proper. One thousand Chin labourers were enrolled from the Tiddim Subdivision alone and proceeded to France. In the Falam Subdivision over 800 men volunteered within a week and the Haka Chins, if they had been called on, would also have responded. There was some inter-tribal fighting in the unadministered territory south-west of the Chin Hills and a technical violation of the frontier, which however, did not lead to fighting, was committed by a band of

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Other Shan
States.

men from the unadministered village of Sabaungte, who entered the administered village of Langoite to demand the surrender of a woman who had lately been a slave.

The staple crops were generally good, but the wheat grown for the military police showed deterioration. Floods caused considerable damage to roads and bridges in the Falam and Tiddim Subdivisions.

There were very few cases of crime, and only one violent crime. There was no outbreak of cholera during the year, but dysentery caused a number of deaths at the beginning of the rains. Of late years the drinking of distilled liquor has increased greatly among the Chins and evil results are now becoming evident. In the Pakökku Hill Tracts the only serious disturbance in an otherwise prosperous year, was the murder of a Sub-Inspector of Police by a band led by a Chin who had a grievance against the Sub-Inspector. This band, after losing one of their number in a fight with a body of police and armed villagers who went to search for them, took refuge in unadministered territory, and demonstrations by small bodies of military police had to be made and the unadministered area blockaded, before the ringleaders surrendered. In the Hill District of Arakan no raids on administered territory occurred during the year and raiding in unadministered territory by some Yallaing Shandus had no effect on the administered area. Three durbars were held and a large number of trans-border Chiefs attended for the purpose of having their disputes settled. In the Somra Tract adjoining the Upper Chindwin District no serious disturbance took place during the year. Three women were carried off from a village in Manipur territory by Nagas from Somra Piya but the order for their restoration was complied with readily. Seven people were killed in a fight between two Naga villages in the Somra Tract but the quarrel was composed and a blood-feud averted. An *ex*-Chief of Tangbuk attempted to stir up trouble, but the effort failed and he retired to seclusion near the Manipur border.

(iii) *The Kachin Hills.*

[*The Putao District and tracts in the Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha Districts.*]

9. The peace of the north-eastern frontier was undisturbed throughout the year. The tribesmen who abandoned their villages during the troubles of 1915 are returning and the tracts are resuming their normal aspect. A new military police outpost was established at Punlumbum in this area. A blood-feud between two trans-border Chiefs, and disturbances on the Chinese side owing to measures to eradicate poppy-cultivation, failed to evoke any disorder in British territory. Owing to the war the Public Works Department could undertake no new works in the frontier Districts. But satisfactory progress was made in the opening-up of inter-village roads, and in the improvement and extension of mule-tracks by village agency. Crime decreased in Putao and Bhamo and Katha, but increased in Myitkyina. There was one violent crime in Putao, 8 in Myitkyina, 4 in Bhamo and none in Katha. Most of the violent crimes were murders. The number of criminal cases instituted in Putao fell from 63 in 1915-16 to 18 in the year of report. The decrease is due partly to fewer prosecutions of beadmen for failure to improve the roads in their jurisdictions, and partly to a diminishing propensity among the people to take the law into their own hands. In Myitkyina the number of cases instituted was 146 as against 79 in the previous year. The increase was general and no special reasons can be given for it. In Bhamo there was no marked variation from the figures of the previous year. In Katha there was a considerable decrease. The number of civil cases instituted in Putao dropped from 24 in 1915-16 to 12 in the year of report. In Myitkyina there was an increase from 104 to 174. The increase is partly due to the extension of the territorial jurisdiction of the Courts and partly to the fact that the Kachins are acquiring a preference for the Courts where their disputes are settled with less expense and delay than by the village elders, and with finality. In Bhamo 74 cases were instituted as against 117 in the previous year and in Katha 35 as against 129. The tribute was everywhere collected without difficulty and to amounts very similar to those of the preceding year, except in Myitkyina where there was an increase of some Rs. 600 due to the return of tribesmen who had fled during the troubles in 1915. In Myitkyina three new forest reserves

were created. The output of jade in Myitkyina was 138,922 viss as against 117,548 viss in the previous year. The work of appointing new headmen and of issuing appointment orders was proceeded with during the year in the Putao and Myitkyina Districts. Progress was also made with the demarcation of the boundaries of village-tracts. In parts of the Putao District where land is plentiful the boundary-disputes that elsewhere are a fruitful source of quarrels among the Kachins are entirely absent and in many cases the boundaries are unknown. Several boundary-disputes were settled during the year. In the Putao District relations with the trans-border tribes remained satisfactory. In the Laza Sub-division, a trans-border feud threatened to involve trouble, and alarm was allayed only after the border was patrolled by military police. In Myitkyina two Kachins from the Hukawng valley carried off some property belonging to a headman in the Laban tract in settlement of an old debt. This was the only raid from across the border. No Chinese officials or soldiers crossed the frontier into the Putao District during the year and the only untoward incident was the carrying off by some Lisus from Chinese territory of a child from Namdawng village in the Akkyang valley, in satisfaction of a debt. The annual meeting between the Myitkyina District officials and the Chinese frontier officials took place at Sima and fifteen disputes were discussed. But the meeting was not altogether satisfactory. The annual meeting of the Bhamo officials was held at Nawngma and was successful. On the Bhamo frontier, with the exception of an unfounded allegation that British Kachins were being encouraged to help their congeners in Chinese territory in resisting attempts to eradicate poppy-cultivation, relations with the Yunnan authorities were satisfactory.

Chao, L.
Furness
and
Political
Geography.

Condition of the People.

10. In Lower Burma generally the season was a favourable one. In the General, Arakan Division the abandonment of low-lying land in Kyaukpyu continued and throughout the Division conditions were very little, if any, better than in the preceding rather lean year. In the other three Divisions of Lower Burma, which comprise the important rice-growing Districts, agricultural conditions were good and the damage caused by floods was less than usual. Throughout the Lower Burma Districts the average yield of rice was 97 per cent. of the normal. The average price realized for unhusked rice in the Bassein District, which may be taken as typical of the Lower Burma rice-growing Districts, was Rs. 111 per hundred baskets as compared with Rs. 97 in 1915-16 and Rs. 91 in 1914-15. So it may be said that, in Lower Burma generally crops were good, and prices favourable. In Upper Burma, in the greater part of which the rainfall is scanty and capricious, the season taken as a whole was favourable, in spite of sporadic adverse conditions in various localities at various times. In the Magwe Division scanty middle rains damaged the rice crop in Thayetmyo but dry crops there were good and generally throughout the Division crops were fair. In the Sagaing Division irrigated rice suffered from the extreme lateness of the early rains and a late rise of the Chindwin damaged crops in the two Chindwin Districts. But generally throughout the Division crops were good and in the Sagaing and Lower Chindwin Districts markedly better than in the two previous years. In the Meiktila Division the year was a good one. In the Mandalay Division the year was a fair one. In the main, throughout Upper Burma harvests were good and prices good. The extraordinarily high prices prevalent for cotton and beans greatly benefited the cultivators in the Districts in Central Burma where these crops are grown. So throughout the Province generally crops were good and the prices realized were good and the condition of the people was much more prosperous than in either of the two preceding years. The price of imported articles has risen markedly, but the extent to which these are consumed by the vast bulk of the people is not such as to affect the standard of living appreciably. For the second year in succession remarkably little loss was caused to cultivators by cattle-disease. The health of the people was markedly better than in the previous year and the death-rate was lower than the average for the last quinquennium.

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II. His Excellency Lord Chelmsford, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.M.I.E., Viceroy and Governor-General of India arrived in Rangoon on December 1st, 1916, and spent three weeks in a tour of the Province.

Notable
events of the
year.

While His Excellency was at Rangoon there was handed to him a cheque for twenty-six lakhs of rupees, the amount that had then been collected for the Burma War Gift Fund which was started after the Day of Patriotic Resolve Meeting on August 4th, 1916. Subsequent subscriptions brought this Fund up to twenty-nine lakhs of rupees. The Province also subscribed handsomely to the Indian Government War Loan and War Bonds. An enthusiastic canvassing campaign was undertaken to stimulate interest in these and by the end of March 1917, only a fortnight after they were thrown open to the public, the total subscriptions of the Province to War Loan and War Bonds amounted to Rs. 28 lakhs.

But more than merely pecuniary evidence of the Province's loyalty was forthcoming. Ever since the beginning of the war there had been evinced throughout the Province an unmistakable desire that the Burmese, among whom, except for a single company of Sappers and Miners, there had been no enlistment since the Pegu Light Infantry was disbanded in 1861-62, should be allowed to enlist as soldiers. In response to the military aspirations of the people, sanction was given during the year for the recruitment of a Burmese company of Military Police. Subsequently, in November 1916, sanction was given for the raising of a Burmese regiment of Pioneer, which shortly later was transformed into an infantry regiment with the title of the 70th Burma Rifles. Recruiting was stimulated by the departure on active service, in October 1916, of the Burmese company of Sappers and Miners. In March 1917 sanction was given for the enlistment of a Labour Corps, and a Corps 2,000 strong was raised and despatched to France. There was a very strong Chin contingent in the Labour Corps. At the end of June 1917 a Recruiting Committee was formed to control recruiting throughout the Province both for the Labour Corps and for the military units.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REFERENCES—

Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Burma during the year ended the 30th June 1917.
Land Records Administration Report of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1917.
Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.

Realization of the Revenue.

12. Exclusive of the amounts to be credited to cess and irrigation, the aggregate land revenue demand for the year 1916-17 was Rs. 3,03,68 lakhs against Rs. 2,94,20 lakhs in 1915-16. Of this increase of nine and a half lakhs of rupees, about two and three-quarter lakhs of rupees may be ascribed to the introduction of revised rates. The balance was due to more extensive cultivation under the favourable conditions which prevailed throughout the greater part of the Province. In Lower Burma generally, the year was a good one and there was less damage by floods than usual. In Upper Burma, in spite of the failure of the early rains in some Districts, the year was, on the whole, a favourable one. In the Arakan Division, the assessed area in the Akyab District showed an increase of 8,525 acres, which was almost entirely due to stricter assessment of waste land used as private grazing grounds. Owing partly to this, partly to the fact that landholders refrained from applying for reduction of the assessment on fallow areas to the usual extent, and partly to the revision of the assessment on a number of waste land grants, the demand increased by Rs. 81,049. There was however little real extension of cultivation. In Kyaukpyu the abandonment of low-lying flooded paddy-land continued; there was some extension of cultivation and increase of revenue demand in Sandoway. The agricultural conditions were good throughout most of the Pegu Division, and comparatively little damage was done by floods. Cultivation was extended in every District, most markedly in Pegu, where the assessed area shows an increase of 18,431 acres. In Hanthawaddy the effect of the extension of cultivation on the revenue demand was counteracted by the assessment of a large area in the Twante Township at fallow rates; and the demand was less by Rs. 10,086 than that of 1915-16. In all the other Districts the demand rose, the total increase for the Division being Rs. 42,865. In the Irrawaddy Division, as in Pegu, the rainfall was generally timely and, except in Bassein, the planted crops suffered less than usual from floods. There was a considerable extension of cultivation, particularly in the Myaungmya and Pyawbôn Districts, where there is still room for expansion towards the sea. The land revenue demand from these two Districts increased by Rs. 30,715 and Rs. 20,261, respectively. In Ma-ubin favourable conditions in the early part of the season resulted in considerable areas which are usually flooded being brought under cultivation; and although some damage was done by late floods in October and November, the demand shows a rise of Rs. 22,215. In Henzada there was some extension of cultivation, but a rise of Rs. 1,74 lakhs in the land revenue demand is ascribed for the most part to the introduction of revised rates following settlement in a large part of the District. Revised rates were introduced in a portion of the Bassein District also; and a further result of the recent settlement operations was revision of survey and recomputation of areas on a large scale, by which 22,599 acres were added to the assessed area. The demand increased by Rs. 30,210. The demand for the whole Division was Rs. 94,20 lakhs against Rs. 91,44 lakhs in 1915-16. The total demand for the Tenasserim Division shows an increase of Rs. 77,861 over that of the previous year, a considerable proportion of which was due to the introduction of revised rates in part of the Toungoo

Demand,
collections,
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and out-
standings.

District. In all the Districts, however, there was some extension of cultivation, and Toungoo, Thaton and Amherst enjoyed unusual freedom from floods. In Amherst and Tavoy an increase of the fallow area assessed at the two-anna rate counteracted the effect of extensions on the revenue demand. In the Magwe Division, in the Thayetmyo District the early rains were insufficient, and much paddy-land was unworked. *Ya* crops on the other hand did well, and the cultivation of cotton was stimulated by good prices obtained in the previous year. In Minbu, Pakokku, and Magwe the agricultural conditions were fair, and each District showed an assessed area and a demand considerably larger than in 1915-16. The bulk, but not the whole, of an increase of Rs. 71,803 in the Magwe demand was due to the transfer of the Sale Township from Myingyan at the opening of the year. The total demand for the Division was higher by just over a lakh of rupees than that of the previous year. In the Mandalay Division, in the Mandalay District the season was fair, in spite of some damage by flood; and a considerable increase in the area under white beans, owing to the prospect of a strong European demand, resulted in an increase of Rs. 36,247 in the land revenue demand. In the other Districts of the Division there was some failure of the early rains, and the revenue was less than in the previous year, except in Bhamo, which showed a rise of a few thousands of rupees. In the Sagaing Division, in the Shwebo District the supply of irrigation water was late, and there was also deficiency of rainfall in the Shwebo and Kanbalu Subdivisions. The revenue demand was in consequence less by Rs. 16,654 than in the previous year. In the Chindwin Districts and in part of Sagaing, considerable damage was done by late floods from the Chindwin; but in the greater part of Sagaing and in the Lower Chindwin District the conditions were on the whole distinctly better than those of the preceding two years. The revenue demand in these two Districts was higher than in 1915-16 by Rs. 43,919 and Rs. 78,400 respectively, but rather more than half the apparent increase in Sagaing was due to a change in the date for assessment of *Mayin*, through which no assessment was made within the year 1915-16. As in Mandalay, the cultivation of white beans was considerably extended. The rainfall was on the whole good in the Meiktila Division and there was comparative freedom from floods. In each of the four Districts, if allowance be made for the transfer of the Sale Township from Myingyan to Magwe, the assessed area was considerably larger than in 1915-16, which was a poor year everywhere except in Kyaukse. During the year of report a further readjustment in Kyaukse of the portion of consolidated rates credited to the head of irrigation resulted in a small decrease in the land revenue demand, in spite of the extension of assessed area, but the increase in the demand in the other three Districts was sufficient to raise the total demand for the Division by two and a half lakhs of rupees. In the case of Myingyan the combined effect on the demand of the favourable season and the introduction of revised settlement rates more than counterbalanced the loss of the Sale Township.

The total amount of current land revenue remitted was Rs. 2.17 lakhs, against Rs. 5 lakhs in 1915-16 and Rs. 7.85 lakhs in 1914-15. The total amount remitted on account of the destruction of crops by floods was Rs. 1.41 lakhs or about two lakhs of rupees less than in 1915-16. Rupees 41,966 were remitted for this reason in Bassein, Rs. 39,000 in Ma-ubin, Rs. 20,994 in Yamethin, Rs. 12,869 in Hanthawaddy, and Rs. 9,305 in Toungoo. In the case of Ma-ubin and Hanthawaddy these figures were much below those reported for several years; and the absence of heavy remissions in Insein was also noteworthy. The amount of revenue remitted as irrecoverable in Lower Burma, Rs. 39,794, was little more than half that returned for 1915-16. Erroneous assessment accounted for a total of Rs. 14,327, against Rs. 19,097 in the previous year.

The total collections of current land revenue, owing to the increased demand and the comparatively small amount remitted, was larger by twelve lakhs of rupees than in the previous year. Rupees 72,766 were outstanding at the end of the year, a larger sum than has been recorded for a number of years. This is possibly explained by the fact that towards the end of the year Township Officers were generally devoting their energies to urging the claims of the war loan, and that

consequently less attention than usual was given to the clearing up of revenue arrears. Thanks to the good harvest, the revenue was in most Districts paid without difficulty. The Districts of the Arakan Division, which did not share the favourable agricultural conditions enjoyed by the rest of the Province, were exceptions. In Kyaukpyu in particular there was distress owing to the destruction of crops by floods, storms, and rats, an epidemic of small-pox, and cattle-disease, in addition to the difficulties arising from war conditions. The amount outstanding at the end of the year in this District was Rs. 20,276, a large proportion of the Provincial total. Difficulty in collection was also experienced in Pegu, where Rs. 13,958 were outstanding. The sums outstanding in Upper Burma were generally revenue on *kaing* cultivation, which falls due in April.

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Arrears
Arrears
Arrears

13. The amount of revenue for the realization of which application was made for the issue of process was Rs. 11.89 lakhs or Rs. 2.88 lakhs less than in the previous year, although still considerably more than the usual amount in the years preceding the war. The amount realized was Rs. 9.61 lakhs or 80.8 per cent., against 84.4 per cent. in 1915-16. Movable property was sold in 813 cases, against 737 in the previous year; but the number of processes of every other kind was considerably smaller. Warrants of arrest were fewer by 26 per cent. and numbered 8,070, while the number of persons arrested decreased from 2,372 to 1,094, and the number of persons committed to jail from 102 to 53. Warrants of attachment of movable property decreased from 5,828 to 4,407. Warrants of attachment of immovable property fell from 15,315 to 10,702 and sales from 2,750 to 2,089. The Bassein District, with 1,442, had the largest number of arrests, and Kyaukpyu came second with 878, a number large in proportion to the demand.

Revenue
proceedings
and coercive
processes.

Surveys.

14. During the year of report topographical survey operations were continued by Parties No. 10 and 11 of the Survey of India in the Myitkyina, Mandalay, Kyaukse and Putao Districts of Upper Burma, in the Northern Shan States; and in the Mergui District of Lower Burma. An area of 6,089 square miles was surveyed partly on the half-inch, partly on the one-inch, and partly on the two-inch scale. Triangulation was also carried out in the Myitkyina and Putao Districts of Upper Burma and in the south of the Mergui District of Lower Burma, with a view to detail survey being extended to these Districts next season. Tidal operations were continued by No. 15 Survey Party at Rangoon and Moulmein. The tidal observatories were inspected and the tide-gauges were cleaned, adjusted and left in good working order. The Magnetic Observatory at Toungoo was visited by No. 18 Survey Party for the purpose of taking magnetic observations for the comparison of instruments.

Surveys by
Imperial
agency.

15. During the year a Special Survey Staff continued to be employed for the demarcation and survey of wolfram areas in the Tenasserim Division. Altogether 11 areas were surveyed, of which 7 were situated in Tavoy and 4 in Mergui. The total length of the traverses run was 148 miles; but of this only 41 miles represents the actual length of boundary surveyed, the remainder being the amount of traverse lines necessary to fix geographically the situation of the areas leased. The total cost was Rs. 18,487. In the Thaton District a special surveyor was appointed for the demarcation of certain areas on the Dawna range over which prospecting licenses for wolfram had been granted. The tract in which the range is situated is at present unsurveyed. Owing to boundary disputes due to the absence of proper maps, and also to passive obstruction on the part of the concessionaires, only one area just under a square mile in extent was finally demarcated at a cost of Rs. 316. In addition, the survey of one leased area measuring 2.60 square miles was completed at a cost of Rs. 508, but the accuracy of the survey by means of geographical connection remains to be assured. All revision surveys which cannot be undertaken in the normal course by the regular District staff are now as far as

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possible carried out by the Special Survey Party. This system is both more economical and more efficient than the old system of carrying out such surveys by casual temporary staff engaged by the local superintendents.—The Special Survey Party, which is able to offer continuous employment, attracts a more highly qualified class of surveyors, and, working under expert supervision, its output of work is greater and is of a better quality. A large proportion of the party have now been trained to undertake both cadastral and traverse work. This is important, since the work of the party during the next few years will comprise, in addition to ordinary cadastral revision work, a large amount of traverse work in connection with the subdivision of unwieldy *twins* and a good deal of topographical survey of areas set apart for colonization schemes. The mapping and other connected work relating to various revision surveys executed last year in the Bassein, Myaungmya, and Pyapôn Districts was completed at Insein during the recess. During the field season the Special Survey Party carried out traverse operations in 961 *twins* spread over an area of 1,297 square miles in the Prome, Tharrawaddy, and Henzada Districts, partly in connection with the subdivision of unwieldy *twins* into smaller units, and partly in connection with revision surveys which will be taken up next year. The necessary geographical connection was assured by verifactory azimuths taken to prove the work with the old work already azimuthally connected by the Survey of India Department. The party also completed the cadastral revision survey in Ma-ubin of 63 *twins* comprising 37,546 acres of occupied area and in Henzada of 44 *twins* with an area of 29,700 acres. The total expenditure was Rs. 64,007, the traverse operations costing Rs. 48,877 or Rs. 37-11-0 per square mile and the cadastral Rs. 15,130 or 3 annas and 7 pies per occupied acre,—low figures compared with previous years. A topographical survey, on a scale of 4 inches to the mile, of an area of 49 square miles in the Namyin Valley of the Myitkyina District, in which a scheme of colonization on co-operative lines is to be introduced, was successfully carried out by a small special staff under surveyors supplied from the Special Survey Party. The survey was geographically connected with Survey of India trigonometrical stations. The cost was Rs. 5,475 or nearly Rs. 112 per square mile.

Town and
fishery
surveys and
surveys of
land areas.

16. No special demarcation and survey of Town Lands was undertaken during the year. In Yamèthin, a resurvey of the town of Pyawbwè was disposed of by the local staff, but as the original survey of this town, which was made in 1905-06, had been condemned as faulty, it is doubtful whether this resurvey can be accepted. In Rangoon Town the regular staff resurveyed 5,936 acres on the 100' scale to bring the survey up to date. There was no survey of fisheries during the year. During the year the survey of *pattas* or grants was practically confined to the Amherst, Tavoy and Mergui Districts of the Tenasserim Division. In Amherst, 122 out of 126 applications received were disposed of, and of these 108 related to the survey of salt *pattas* comprising an area of 1,103 acres. The remainder were for the cultivation of rubber and the citronella plant. In Tavoy, out of 52 applications for the cultivation of rubber and miscellaneous gardens, 41 covering an area of 408 acres were disposed of. In Mergui, 304 applications, covering an area of 4,096 acres, had to be disposed of. Of this number, 231 cases covering an area of 2,886 acres were surveyed. With a view to prevent the delays in disposal hitherto so rife in this District, and to secure adequate check in future, the appointment of a special *patta* Inspector has been sanctioned for a period of six months each year. In all cases the establishments were paid on the contract or piece-work system.

Settlements.

Progress of
Settlements.

17. Five settlement parties were engaged on settlement operations on the 1st July 1916; Nos. 1 and 4 Parties, which had completed the programme of work allotted to them, were disbanded on the 15th November 1916. No. 1 Party had been continuously in existence practically since 1879, when it was constituted as the first original settlement party under Mr. J. E. Bridges. No. 4 Party had been

in existence since 1890. With the sanction of the Local Government, special arrangements were made, by which employment was found for the members of the two parties who possessed good records, partly by absorption in the remaining settlement parties, and partly by appointment to the Land Records staff of various Districts. Thus at the close of the agricultural year ending on the 30th June 1917 there were only three settlement parties working in Burma.

During the year of report settlement operations were carried on in eight Districts and covered a gross area of 11,417 square miles with an occupied area of 3,759,000 acres. In four of these Districts, Sandoway, Kyaukpyu, Prome and Akyab, the field work had been completed before the beginning of the year and the work of the settlement parties in these Districts, covering a gross area under settlement of 4,788 square miles and an occupied area of 1,371,000 acres, was, during the year of report, confined to the compilation of statistics and the completion of the reports. The reclassification of the area irrigated by the Shwebo Canal in the Shwebo District was undertaken by a section of the disbanded No. 4 Party, and this work also was completed during the year. The total area reclassified consisted of 522 square miles with 207,000 occupied acres.

In the remaining three Districts in which settlement operations were carried on during the year, Magwe, Sagaing, and Myaungmya, soil-classification and connected operations were completed over a gross area of 2,368 square miles comprising an occupied area of 916,000 acres.

In addition to the above regular operations, the summary settlement of the disforested Kadonbaw Reserve in the Hanthawaddy District, was carried out by the colonization officer with a small staff. The total area dealt with was about 37 square miles with a cultivable area of 18,000 acres of which about 14,500 were at the time of settlement being worked by tenancy copartnership societies organised on co-operative lines.

18. During the year of report, new settlements were sanctioned for portions of nine Districts, including three of the Districts (Sandoway, Kyaukpyu and Prome) in which the settlement operations had been completed in the course of the year. In the Myingyan District, including the Sale Township, which was transferred from Myingyan to Magwe with effect from the 1st July 1916, a new settlement affecting an area of 3,072 square miles with an occupied area of 1,123,192 acres, was sanctioned, whereby the total revenue demand will rise by 9.71 per cent., from Rs. 6.96 lakhs to Rs. 7.63 lakhs. By the new settlement of the Kawa Township of the Pegu District, affecting a total area of 306 square miles and an occupied area of 141,441 acres, the land revenue demand will rise by 11.80 per cent., from Rs. 4.27 lakhs to Rs. 4.77 lakhs. New rates sanctioned for the Pegu and Thanatpin Townships of the same District, with a total area of 799 square miles and an occupied area of 295,887 acres, will cause the land revenue to rise by 17.07 per cent., from Rs. 7.67 lakhs to Rs. 8.98 lakhs. The resettlement of the Hilegu Township of the Insein District, which has a total area of 316 square miles, with an occupied area of 119,711 acres, will increase the revenue demand by 8.98 per cent., from Rs. 2.80 lakhs to Rs. 3.05 lakhs. By the resettlement of the Tharrawaddy District, which has a total area of 1,285 square miles and an occupied area of 509,398 acres, the land revenue demand will rise by 19.17 per cent. from Rs. 11.96 lakhs to Rs. 14.25 lakhs. New rates sanctioned for the surveyed area of the Thayetmyo District, which has a total area of 1,378 square miles and an occupied area of 584,592 acres, will cause an increase of land revenue demand of 27.60 per cent., from Rs. 1.95 lakhs to Rs. 2.48 lakhs. In the Sandoway District, the first regular resettlement of a total area of 275 square miles with an occupied area of 64,782 acres will cause an increase of land revenue of 14.90 per cent., from Rs. 1.04 lakhs to Rs. 1.19 lakhs. In Kyaukpyu, new rates applied, also at the first regular settlement, to the total area of 843 square miles with an occupied area of 201,794 acres, will yield an increase in the land revenue demand of 15.41 per cent., from Rs. 2.86 lakhs to Rs. 3.30 lakhs. The resettlement of the Prome District, which has a total area of 1,720 square miles and an occupied area of 368,318 acres, will cause the land revenue demand to increase by 8.62 per cent., from Rs. 5.72 lakhs to Rs. 6.22 lakhs. In the Shwebo District, reclassification was effected of the area irrigated by the

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Financial
results of
new settle-
ments.

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Shwabo Canal, which amounts to 207,000 acres. The result of reclassification and revision of rates will be an increase of 9·07 per cent. on the present demand of Rs. 8·27 lakhs. The total result of the new regular settlements will produce an enhancement of demand amounting to over Rs. 6½ lakhs, an increase of 14·72 per cent. Owing, however, to the application of intermediate rates, and to the fact that in certain portions of the Pegu, Insein and Tharrawaddy Districts the new rates do not come in force till July 1918 the immediate enhancement will be considerably less. The expenditure during the year of report of all the Settlement Parties at work during the year was Rs. 3·06 lakhs. For the settlements actually completed during the year the settlement operations cost Rs. 98 per square mile of the gross area, and about five annas per occupied area.

Land Records.

Area under
supplementary
survey.

19. During the year the area under supplementary survey fell by 980 square miles. A decrease of 115 square miles in Pakòkku is due to the separation and exclusion of forest reserves which had hitherto been included in the area nominally under supplementary survey. In the Lower Chindwin the area fell by 597 square miles owing to the introduction of lump sum assessment in 326 towns. An increase of 310 square miles in Magwe and a corresponding decrease in Myingyan was due to the transfer of the Sale Township to Magwe. There was also a further decrease of 258 square miles in Myingyan owing to the introduction of lump sum assessments. Land revenue and cess in rural areas rose by Rs. 10·32 lakhs to Rs. 3,41·88 lakhs, the increase being due partly to the introduction of new settlements and partly to a better season in Upper Burma, where the revenue rose by over two lakhs of rupees in Meiktila and over a lakh of rupees in Yamethin. The area under supplementary survey in towns rose by two square miles. In Akyab, an increase of three square miles is nominal, owing to a mistake in omitting one town from the list last year, while in Tharrawaddy a decrease of one square mile is due to the recomputation of areas. In other Districts the variations due to recomputation of areas were small and unimportant. Town land rolls have not yet been prepared for Kyaukse and Yamethin, but will be taken in hand in 1917-18 on receipt of the printed copies of the 64-inch maps. The total land revenue, rent, and land rate from towns rose by Rs. 69,000 to nearly twelve and three-quarter lakhs of rupees. An increase in Rangoon Town of Rs. 57,352 was due to the assessment of a large number of homestead plots of over quarter of an acre formerly unassessed, and of four blocks in the old Cantonment area, to the issue of new leases, and to the detection of encroachments. The increases in other towns were due to enhancement of rents on the renewal of leases, and to the issue of new leases.

Cost of supplementary
survey.

20. The total cost of supplementary survey was Rs. 15·57 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 7,638 over the year before. Superintendence and inspection cost Rs. 6,249 more and the subordinate field staff Rs. 6,040 more, but much of the latter increase is due to taisayés coming on to the regular supplementary survey staff on the retirement of the circle thugyas. Contingent expenses everywhere were more closely watched and money spent on contingencies was less by Rs. 4,051. The cost of the District Land Records staff was 4·31 per cent. of the revenue assessed, a decline of ·11 per cent. for the year; this was due mainly to the better year in Upper Burma, where the percentage of cost to revenue in Meiktila and the Lower Chindwin fell by 4·65 and 2·68 respectively. The percentage of cost to revenue in Myingyan 2·11 is the lowest in the Province.

Training of
officers.

21. The number of Government Survey Schools continues at 18. The total number of pupils on the rolls on the 31st March 1917 was 236. During the year 140 scholarships of the value of Rs. 10 each, and tenable for one year, were allotted to deserving scholars and the cost of these stipends was Rs. 15,175. The total expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 37,519 as against an income of Rs. 2,581. The net cost was therefore Rs. 34,938 and this works out to a cost of Rs. 150 per pupil for his technical education, as against Rs. 90 ten

years ago. The results obtained at the Syndicate Examination were an improvement on the previous year; they were good for Revenue and fair for Arithmetic, but very poor again for Surveying. In Revenue the percentage of passes was 90, as against 80 in the previous year, and 68 the average of the five preceding years; in Arithmetic 89 per cent. were successful, as against 51 per cent. for the previous year, and 66 per cent. the average of five years; while in Surveying only 35 per cent. obtained passes, as against 43 per cent. in the previous year, and 64 per cent., the average of the past five years. The schools that did best in Surveying are Moulmein, Mònywa, Mandalay and Katha; while Pegu passed only one candidate and Kyaukpyu, Bassein, Henzada, Meiktila, Minbu and Pakokku very few indeed. At present the whole course of instruction at these schools is under consideration. Two hundred and seventy-seven apprentices were under training during the year, 45 less than the year before. One hundred and thirty-one appeared for the test examination, and certificates of proficiency were issued to 100 who passed the test, and also to several men who had officiated as revenue-surveyors. Twenty-six were removed from the list for failure to pass or other reasons. The standard of the examination varies with the Superintendents of Land Records, but is generally satisfactory, and the standard required for survey is being steadily raised. Many of the apprentices who find it difficult to maintain themselves, work as chainmen to revenue-surveyors. Of certificate-holders 186 were appointed permanently and 193 temporarily to the staff. The prospects of a long apprenticeship without pay, and of further long periods in low grades, are not good enough to attract capable men and there is a natural falling off in numbers.

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ANALYST
TO THE LAND.

22. The area with reference to which statistics relating to the transfer of land were collected was 17,304,45 acres of occupied land in the year of report, as compared with 17,272,840 acres in the previous year. The area over which the statistics were collected showed a considerable decrease in the Myingyan and Magwe Districts, taken together, and in the Lower Chindwin District, due to the exclusion of the areas which have been placed under fixed assessment, and for which statistics are no longer recorded. The area sold during the year, 548,211 acres, was greater by 117,815 acres than in 1915-16. While the area mortgaged during the year, 570,905 acres, was less by 86,381 acres, the area redeemed, 320,265 acres, was greater by 89,549 acres than in the previous year. The total area under mortgage without possession, however, rose by 230,368 acres to 2,348,828 acres. The area transferred by sale was 3.2 per cent. of the whole area covered by the statistics as against 2.5 per cent. in the previous year. The area mortgaged during the year was 3.3 per cent. of the whole as against 3.8 per cent. in 1915-16, and the area redeemed was 1.9 per cent. of the whole as against 1.3 per cent. in the year before. The area of land under mortgage at the end of the year rose from 12.3 to 13.6 per cent. of the whole area covered by the statistics. Figures for Lower and Upper Burma show that the area sold was in Lower Burma 5.4 per cent. of the whole occupied area, as against 4.2 per cent. in 1915-16; in Upper Burma the area sold amounted to only .56 per cent. of the whole area. The area mortgaged during the year in Lower Burma was 6 per cent. of the whole area, as against 7 per cent. in the previous year, and the total area under mortgage without possession at the end of the year was 24.4 per cent. as against 22.2 per cent. in the previous year. The total value of the land sold was Rs. 69 lakhs more, and of the land mortgaged during the year Rs. 34 lakhs less, than in 1915-16. The average acre value of the land sold was Rs. 61 as against Rs. 62 in 1915-16, while the mortgage-value remained the same. Of the area sold, 92 per cent. and of the area mortgaged without possession, 98 per cent., were in Lower Burma. Pegu, with 14,393 acres, showed the biggest increase in land sales, but seven other Districts had increases of over 7,500 acres and all Lower Burma Districts except Thayetmyo report increased sales. While few Districts show an increase in mortgaged areas, Myaungmya alone, with 5,784 acres, having an increase of more than 5,000 acres, there were notable decreases of 22,441 acres in Tharrawaddy and 19,464 acres in Akyab. The increase in the area of land redeemed was exceptionally high (30,490 acres) in Pyawda, but

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Land.

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increases of over 5,000 acres were also recorded in Pegu, Myaungmya, Tharrawaddy, Akyab, Hanthawaddy, Bassein, and Ma-ubin. Of the Districts in which sales of over 20,000 acres were recorded, five Districts show an increase in the average acre-value, the most marked increase over the previous year being in Amherst from Rs. 51 to Rs. 71 an acre: seven Districts on the other hand report smaller acre-values for land sold, the most notable being a fall in Toungoo from Rs. 71 to Rs. 46 and in Insein from Rs. 91 to Rs. 77. The variation from the previous year in mortgage values in the Districts in which over 20,000 acres were mortgaged during the year was small and showed no real upward or downward tendency. In Upper Burma only four Districts, Mandalay, Yamethin, Shwebo, and Kyaukse, report sales of over 5,000 acres, and only Yamethin had an area of over 10,000 acres under mortgage without possession at the end of the year. The most striking feature of the returns in Lower Burma is the great increase in the area of land sold. Though the paddy crop and the prices obtained by the cultivators were on the whole better than in 1915-16, the reports indicate that everywhere, except possibly in Amherst and Pyapôn, money was harder to obtain this year. Mortgagees were continually pressing for the return of their money and to satisfy their demands land had to be remortgaged or sold outright—in fact in Tharrawaddy it is said that redemption was a mere incident in the sale. Many of the sales recorded are in reality foreclosures on mortgages which mortgagors could not repay. In Akyab cultivators had either to sell their land outright to obtain funds or to register mortgages as sales, while in Hanthawaddy speculators had to surrender land for money formerly advanced on promissory notes which they could not repay. That the average acre value has declined so little is due to the fact that good land is still sought after as an investment by wealthy people, in spite of the increased unwillingness of the professional money-lender to lend on land security. Where, as in part of Tharrawaddy, a succession of bad seasons has prevented recuperation by the cultivators, the fall in prices has been marked, and only land under established cultivation and with an unassailable title has been accepted in mortgage. On mortgaged land there is generally a considerable margin in favour of the mortgagee, and had any great proportion of the sales been forced a fall in prices such as took place in Insein and Tharrawaddy might have been expected in all Districts. The increased population and the demand for land in Tavoy Town has naturally resulted in a rise of values in Tavoy. Against the general view as to the tightness of money and the demand for better security, it was reported from Pyapôn that the increase in the redeemed area was due to land being redeemed to be pledged again at lower rates of interest, and from Amherst that the financial situation was easier this year. In Upper Burma an increase in sales in Mandalay was due, partly to land being sold to pay debts, and partly to speculation in land for growing white beans. In Kyaukse a decrease in sales and an increase in redemptions were due to the good season which put the cultivator in a more satisfactory position. Generally, owing to the comparatively good harvest, the variations from last year were small, and there was no important rise or fall in values, apart from variations due to sales of valuable urban land.

Waste lands.

Grants and
leases for
cultivation.

23. The area of land granted or leased for cultivation rose from 5,830 acres in 1915-16 to 7,406 acres in the year of report, the increase being mainly due to more extensive issue of grants for rubber cultivation. In all 37 grants were issued, covering a total area of 4,240 acres. The only considerable areas granted in single cases were 1,180 acres in Thatôn, 701, 535, and 296 acres in Mergui, and 476 acres in Insein. If the total area of these five grants be excluded, the average size of the remaining grants issued was only 33 acres. In Mergui, 116 applications for grants were received during the year, covering a total area of 6,042 acres or an average of 52 acres. Grants or leases for ordinary paddy-cultivation continued to be issued only in special circumstances rendering the conferment of title desirable. An area of 133 acres of disforested land in Tharrawaddy was granted to a retired Burman police-officer for the cultivation of staples to be approved by the Director of

Agriculture, or of pre seed of improved varieties obtainable from the Government Farm at Hmawbi. In the Amherst District, 197 acres were leased for lemon grass cultivation, and in Ma-ubin 44 acres for the cultivation of *thabin* (*Clinogyne dichotoma*), a species of rush used for the manufacture of mats. Most of the remaining grants or leases were for miscellaneous garden cultivation. Leases continued to be issued on the special lease area of Hanthawaddy and Insein.

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24. The area granted free of revenue for the erection of religious edifices decreased by 65 acres to 114 acres. In Mandalay 310 acres were granted for a Hindu temple. The total area granted free of revenue for public purposes was 99 acres against 39 in 1915-16. The largest area granted was one of 4.38 acres for a tank in Magwe. An area of 1.40 acres was granted for a municipal office at Pyinmana; 1.52 acres were granted for an Anglo-Vernacular Buddhist school at Minhla in the Tharrawaddy District, and a smaller area in connection with a Roman Catholic Mission school at Toungoo. The remainder of the total was made up of areas of a few acres in each case, granted for burial grounds, and of smaller areas for the construction of public rest-houses or wells. Only 287 acres, as against 384 in the previous year, were granted or leased as an appanage of the office of headman (*thugyisa* land). An area of 32 acres was leased in Pegu to one headman whose commission is inadequate. The other allotments were small. The addition to the total value of assignments of land revenue was Rs. 691, which is less by Rs. 111 than the corresponding amount in the previous year. There were no specially large assignments. The figures correspond generally to the areas newly granted as *thugyisa* land in Upper Burma, and granted free of revenue for religious and public purposes. An area of 6.46 acres in the Insein District was exempted from assessment to land revenue as the curtilage of a much frequented pagoda near Rangoon. A number of smaller areas were similarly exempted from revenue, without being granted, in Toungoo, Pyapôn and Tharrawaddy. The total value of the assignments of land revenue at the end of the year was Rs. 58,340 as against Rs. 57,649 at the end of 1915-16.

Revenue-free grants of land and assignments of land revenue.

Government Estates and Wards' Estates.

25. The character of the land tenures in Burma is explained in paragraph 39 *et seq.* of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12. Apart from Government lands of the kind therein described, there are no Government estates in the special sense of particular cultivated areas managed by Government after the fashion of a private landlord. There are no wards' estates.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

26. Of the total occupied area for which statistics are recorded, 14,605,712 acres were occupied by agriculturists and 2,698,763 acres by non-agriculturists. The area occupied by agriculturists shows a decrease of 141,987 acres as compared with the previous year. The area held by resident non-agriculturists rose by 35,989 acres to 834,574 acres and the area held by non-resident non-agriculturists by 137,653 acres to 1,864,209 acres. The percentage of the whole area occupied by agriculturists was 84.4 per cent. as against 85.4 in 1915-16 and 85.3 in 1914-15. In Lower Burma, including Thayetmyo, agriculturists occupied 7,281,499 acres, or 77 per cent., and non-agriculturists 2,130,386 acres, or 23 per cent., of the whole occupied area. All but four Districts in Lower Burma report a smaller percentage occupied by agriculturists than in the previous year. Non-agriculturists now hold 43 per cent. of the whole occupied area in Hanthawaddy, 34 per cent. in Pyapôn, 32 per cent. in Insein, 31 per cent. in Ma-ubin, 28 per cent. in Toungoo, and 27 per cent. in Pegu. The increase in the areas held by non-resident non-agriculturists in Lower Burma is striking, no less than 11 out of 19 Districts reporting increases of over 8,000 acres in the areas so held, while only two Districts report similar increases in the areas held by resident non-agriculturists. In Upper Burma excluding Thayetmyo agriculturists occupied 7,324,213

Area held by agriculturists.

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acres or 92.8 per cent. and non-agriculturists 568,397 acres or 7.2 per cent. The percentage of the area held by non-agriculturists is above 10 per cent. only in Minbu, Mandalay, and the Upper and Lower Chindwin Districts.

Tenancies.

37. The area let at full rents rose by 197,604 acres to 3,351,219 acres, Akyab, Insein, Pegu and Ma-ubin showing increases of over 20,000 acres: of this area 3,256,991 acres or 97 per cent. were in Lower Burma. If all the land owned by non-agriculturists in Lower Burma was let, 1,126,603 acres must have been let by owners classed as agriculturists. The marked excess of the areas let at full rents over the areas held by non-agriculturists in Akyab, Tharrawaddy, Pegu, Bassein, Henzada and Myaungmya, as compared with other Lower Burma Districts indicates the existence of a large body of owners who cultivate part and let part of their land. The area let at full rents has reached more than half of the whole occupied area in Hanthawaddy, nearly half in Pegu, and well over a third in Akyab, Insein, Tharrawaddy, Bassein, Myaungmya, Ma-ubin and Pyapôn. The total amount of rent paid rose by Rs. 43 lakhs to Rs. 431 lakhs, the total amount paid in Lower and Upper Burma respectively being in the same proportion as the area rented. The rent roll was largest in Hanthawaddy (Rs. 66 lakhs), Pegu (Rs. 50 lakhs), Myaungmya (Rs. 47 lakhs), and Pyapôn (Rs. 44 lakhs). A fair season in 1915-16, and the anticipation of good prices after the recovery of the rice market, resulted in rents in Lower Burma either remaining at a steady level or being slightly enhanced. Out of thirteen Lower Burma Districts in which the total amount of rent paid was over Rs. 10 lakhs, the average acre-rent rose in five Districts, remained stationary in seven, and fell in one. The average rent in money value rose from Rs. 12.3 an acre in 1915-16 to Rs. 12.9 an acre, but this is due mainly to the higher prices at which the rents paid in kind were commuted. During the year the number of tenants who had rented the same land continuously for five years or more rose by 3,521 to 50,673, or 14 per cent. of the total number of tenants. Continuity of tenure is most common in Akyab, Hanthawaddy and Henzada, and most uncommon in Tharrawaddy, Pegu and Bassein. From Bassein it was reported that increasing numbers of tenants who were a short time ago independent owners of the holdings which they cultivate, receive no privileged treatment in the matter of rent. From Bassein it was also reported that fallowed areas are increasing each year in consequence of the landlord's demands. In Myaungmya tenants continuously working the same land are decreasing, and are being replaced by a class who, while nominally tenants, are really labourers working under contracts which reserve the bulk of the produce to the landlord. In Minbu, the last of the landlords in the Môn Canal tract who had stood out for years against the acceptance of reasonable rents gave way and let their lands. The District reports generally afford very little evidence of any considerable oppression or rack-renting by the landlords.

CHAPTER III. PROTECTION.

REFERENCES—

- Report on the Police Administration of Burma for the year 1916.
Report on the Rangoon Town Police for the year 1916.
Resolution on the Reports on Village Administration in Burma for the year 1916.
Returns showing the measures adopted for the extermination of Wild Animals and Poisonous Snakes in Burma for the year 1916.
Reports on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Burma for the year 1916.
Report on the Prison Administration of Burma for the year 1916.
Reports on the Administration of Civil Justice in Burma for the year 1916.
Report on the Working of the Registration Department in Burma for the three years 1914 to 1916.
Report on the Working of the Indian Companies Act in Burma for the year 1916-17.
Report on the Working of the Rangoon Municipality for the year 1916-17.
Resolution reviewing the Reports on the Working of Municipal Committees in Burma (except Rangoon) during the year 1916-17.
Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Burma, Buildings and Road Branch, for the year 1916-17.
Administration Report of the Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon for the year 1916-17.
Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of Burma with Foreign Countries and Indian Ports for the official year 1916-17, Part III, Shipping.
Report on the Maritime Trade and Customs Administration of Burma for the official year 1916-17.
Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries, Volume II.
Annual Statement of Commerce Trade and Navigation of British India.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volumes I, III and IV.
Report on Government Steamers, Vessels and Launches in Burma for the year 1916-17.

Legislative Authority.

The history and constitution of the Legislative Authority of the Province are described in paragraphs 103 to 106 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Course of Legislation.

28. The two Bills referred to in the report of the preceding year, *viz.*, the Burma Prohibition of Inoculation and Licensing of Vaccinators Amendment Bill and the Burma Ferries Amendment Bill passed into law as Burma Acts Nos. I and II of 1916 during the year of report. Five Bills were introduced into Council during the year, *viz.*, the Burma Excise Bill, 1916, the Burma Salt Bill, 1916, the Burma Water Hyacinth Bill, 1916, the Burma Towns Amendment Bill, 1916, and the Rangoon Hackney Carriages Bill, 1916. Of these five Bills the Burma Water Hyacinth Bill and the Burma Salt Bill became law as Burma Acts Nos. I and II of 1917 respectively during the year but the rest did not become law till after the close of the year of report.

The Burma Prohibition of Inoculation and Licensing of Vaccinators Amendment Act (No. I of 1916) amends the Burma Prohibition of Inoculation and Licensing of Vaccinators Act, 1908, so as to make it an offence in any specified area for a person to produce or attempt to produce the disease of small-pox in any person, not only by inoculation but also by exposure to variolous matter or by any means whatsoever.

The Burma Ferries Amendment Act (No. II of 1916) amends the Burma Ferries Act, 1898, so as expressly to prohibit isolated instances of conveying for hire without due authority within the limits of a public ferry, as well as the

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PROSECUTION.

The Burma Water Hyacinth Act (No. I of 1917) is a measure enacted to prohibit the possession of an aquatic plant called the water hyacinth and to require every owner or occupier of land under penalty to destroy the plant growing on his land. The Act empowers the Township Officers and Government Officers of higher rank to authorize persons to enter on any land and to destroy the plant found therein, if the owner or occupier of the land cannot be found, or if he neglects to destroy the plant. It declares the presence of the plant in the Province a public nuisance and imposes a legal obligation on village headmen and villagers, and on ward headmen and the residents of towns, to co-operate in the task of destroying the plant. In the case of the Province being menaced by a similar pest in future, the Local Government, subject to the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, is empowered to apply the provisions of the Act to the Province.

The Burma Salt Act (No. II of 1917) was enacted with the object of providing more effectively for the regulation of the local manufacture of salt in the Province. Such manufacture has been controlled hitherto by the Indian Salt Act, 1882, and by Rules issued under the Lower Burma Land and Revenue Act, 1876, and the Upper Burma Land and Revenue Regulation, 1889. The Indian Act was not framed to meet the conditions under which the manufacture of salt is carried on in Burma, and, apart from the inconvenience which results from the administration of the Salt Department under three separate enactments, the Rules which can be framed under the Land Revenue law are not sufficiently wide to meet present requirements. The Burma Act embodies the whole of the law relating to local manufacture of salt, and makes provision for the regulation of such manufacture and for offences against the Salt law.

General Acts affecting Burma.

29. The undermentioned General Acts affecting Burma were passed by the Governor-General in Council during the year:—

General Acts of 1916.

- X.—The Enemy Trading Act, 1916.
- XI.—The Import and Export of Goods Act, 1916.
- XII.—The Indian Lunacy (Amendment) Act, 1916.
- XIII.—The Amending Act, 1916.
- XIV.—The Indian Bills of Exchange Act, 1916.
- XV.—The Hindu Disposition of Property Act, 1916.

General Acts of 1917.

- I.—The Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1917.
- II.—The Motor Spirit (Duties) Act, 1917.
- III.—The Indian Defence Force Act, 1917.
- IV.—The Indian Army (Suspension of Sentences) Act, 1917.
- V.—The Destruction of Records Act, 1917.
- VI.—The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1917.
- VII.—The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1917.
- VIII.—The Super-tax Act, 1917.
- IX.—The Indian Bills of Exchange (Amendment) Act, 1917.
- X.—The Indian Army (Amendment) Act, 1917.
- XI.—The Indian Paper Currency (Temporary Amendment) Act, 1917.
- XIII.—The Freight (Railway and Inland Steam-vessel) Tax Act, 1917.
- XIV.—The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Act, 1917.

Ordinances of the Governor-General.

The undermentioned Ordinances affecting Burma were made and promulgated by the Governor-General under section 72 of the Government of India Act, 1915.

*Ordinances of 1916.*Gain, Ill-
Protec-
tion.

IV.—The Import and Export of Goods Ordinance, 1916.

V.—The Enemy Trading Ordinance, 1916.

VI.—The Indian Paper Currency (Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1916.

VII.—The Second Indian Paper Currency (Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1916.

VIII.—The Indian Legislative Council (Elections Inquiries) Ordinance, 1916.

Ordinance of 1917.

I.—The Registration Ordinance, 1917.

All these Acts and Ordinances came fully into force during the year with the exception of the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1917, and the Freight (Railway and Inland Steam-vessel) Tax Act, 1917, both of which did not come into operation until the 1st June 1917 and the 1st April 1917, respectively, *i.e.*, after the close of the year of report. Ordinance No. IV of 1916 was repealed and re-enacted by Act No. XI of 1916 and Ordinance No. V of 1916 by Act No. X of 1916, and Ordinance No. VI of 1916 by Ordinance No. VII of 1916 which in turn was repealed and re-enacted by Act No. XI of 1917.

30. No Regulations affecting Burma were enacted during the year.

Regulations
affecting
Burma.

31. The Marriage Validation Act, 1892, the Registration Ordinance, 1917, and the Import and Export of Goods Act, 1916, were extended to all the Shan States and the Burma Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act, 1910, was extended to all the Northern Shan States except the State of Manglun.

Extension of
enactments
to Shan
States.*Police.*

32. Excluding gazetted officers and the Rangoon Town Police, the sanctioned strength of the Civil Police for the end of 1916 was 1,363 officers and 14,378 men, 1 Deputy Superintendent, 1 sub-inspector, 3 head constables and 18 constables having been added during the year. The actual strength at the close of the year fell short of the sanctioned strength by 48 officers and 590 men, as compared with 48 officers and 751 men twelve months earlier. Ten District Superintendents, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 2 inspectors, 4 sergeants and 2 sub-inspectors of police were out of the Province on military duty. The shortage of men is chiefly confined to Lower Burma Districts. The reduction in the shortage is attributable to better recruiting owing to temporary poverty and scarcity of employment. The shortage of officers, as in the previous year, was chiefly due to the number of cadets undergoing training at the Provincial Training School being much under the sanctioned number. The cost of the Police payable from Imperial and Provincial revenues increased from Rs. 62 lakhs in 1915 to Rs. 62.76 lakhs in the year of report. The increase is chiefly due to an increase of establishment in Tavoy, to temporary additions to the Criminal Investigation Department and in certain Districts in Upper Burma to replace the military police who proceeded on active service. Slightly more was spent in travelling allowance and in secret service money than in the previous year, but there was a considerable decrease in the amount spent on the upkeep of buildings, and on rewards to informers. The cost of the police paid otherwise than from Imperial or Provincial revenues was Rs. 1,83,139 as compared with Rs. 1,86,563 in 1915. The decrease is mainly due to less money having been spent by the Railway Police. The cost of additional police employed under section 15, Act V of 1861 was Rs. 2,46,771 in 1916 as against Rs. 3,00,554 in 1915. The decrease of Rs. 53,783 is due to the disbandment of the additional forces in the Henzada, Sagaing and Shwebo Districts and to the exercise of strict economy in the other Districts concerned.

Civil Police:
strength,
recruitment
and cost.

Gen. III.—
Punishment.

Conduct,
education
and training.

33. During the year 293 officers and 1,664 men were punished departmentally, an increase of 12 and a decrease of 65 respectively on the corresponding figures for 1915. Fourteen officers and 523 men were dismissed or removed, as against 17 officers and 452 men in the previous year. The number of officers and men who were punished magisterially was 6 and 305 respectively, of whom 4 officers and 266 men were dismissed as a result of conviction. The system of selecting cadet sub-inspectors of police by Divisional Committees is having satisfactory results, as the number of punishments imposed on officers who had passed through the Training School was considerably fewer in proportion than the number imposed on officers who had risen from the ranks. The number of offences committed by members of the police force in the execution of their duty was greater than in the previous year, there being 8 cases of violence to persons, 5 cases of wrongful confinement, and 9 cases of wrongful behaviour. In all 5 sub-inspectors, 2 head constables and 15 constables were involved. In all cases suitable punishments were awarded and, when necessary, published abroad *pour encourager les autres*. The number of desertions fell from 156 to 128, resignations without pension from 987 to 948 while dismissals and discharges rose from 664 to 747. There was an increase in the number of special promotions for good work, which rose from 46 to 55. The number of rewards granted, however, decreased from 2,856 to 2,734, financial stringency compelling resort to this doubtful economy. The King's Police Medal was granted to 5 officers during the year. In the District depôts the number of recruits under training was 2,348. Of a total number of 1,511 who appeared for examination, 1,452 passed. The number of casualties before the completion of the course was 367, and 18 recruits were discharged for failure to pass. Owing to the men being required for other duties, in some Districts, there was no retraining of the old constables, and in several Districts the training depôts were open for only six months. A total number of 1,059 officers went through a course of revolver practice. Eight thousand nine hundred and sixty-four men and 1,518 recruits were put through the annual course of musketry and the figure of marks obtained was 63, which is slightly lower than in 1915. Want of ammunition caused both revolver practice and musketry to be curtailed in some Districts. Courses of instruction in first aid to the injured were held in all Districts except 8, and 218 officers and men became entitled to wear the badge of the St. John Ambulance Association. The number of literate subordinate officers and men was 86 per cent. of the total number, the same as in the previous year. At the Provincial Police Training School at Mandalay there were no Assistant or Deputy Superintendents of Police in residence. Two cadet inspectors, 51 cadet sub-inspectors, and 6 sub-inspectors of Excise were posted to the school. Three cadet sub-inspectors resigned during the year. The two cadet inspectors and 49 cadet sub-inspectors appeared for the final examination, of whom 12 sub-inspectors failed to pass the required standard and remained on for a further year's training at their own expense.

Buildings.

34. A sum of Rs. 2.13 lakhs was provided in the Budget of 1915-16 for Civil Police buildings, and a further sum of one lakh of rupees under the head "Petty Construction and Repair." Eight police-stations and a number of quarters were completed during the year. A sum of Rs. 82,560 was expended during the year on hiring quarters for men for whom no Government quarters were available.

Crime.

35. The total number of true cognizable cases dealt with by the Police and by the Courts during 1916 was 47,904 an increase of 2,837, or 6 per cent., over the previous year's figures, which themselves constituted a record. The increase in crime is attributable to unfavourable economic conditions caused by the war, to the dulness of trade, the want of work and the increased cost of living, especially in towns. The number of offences against the State, *vis.*, 473 is practically the same as in 1915. The number of serious offences against the person is actually less, being 5,097 as against 5,178 in the previous year. The decrease is due to there being fewer cases of simple and grievous hurt. Cases of

murder and rape increased. The number of serious offences against person and property, or against property only was 6,354, an increase of 365, mainly due to offences under the house-breaking sections having risen from 4,425 to 4,753. Minor offences against property increased by 873 to 19,131, the increase being most marked in cattle-theft and ordinary theft. The number of cases of public nuisance increased by 856 and cases under special and local laws by 897. The Districts with the most marked increases were Insein, Tharrawaddy, Myaungmya, Pyapôn, Meiktila and Pakôkku. In Prome the number of dacoities rose by 11 and in Tharrawaddy cattle-theft cases rose by 112. The only Districts showing a decrease in all classes of crime were Henzada, Ma-ubin, Myingyan and Thatôn. In Tavoy, where conditions were exceptional owing to the development of the mining industry and the consequent influx of population, crime continued to increase. The total number of cases throughout the Province reported to be due to drink was 959 including 68 murders, 15 robberies and 485 cases of grievous hurt. The total number of violent crimes rose from 1,431 in 1915 to 1,466. Tharrawaddy with 40, Insein with 24 cases, Mergui with 15, and Ma-ubin with 10 cases more than in 1915 show the largest increases in Lower Burma. In Upper Burma, Magwe had 17, Minbu 11, and Lower Chindwin 9 cases more than in the previous year. The principal decreases are Pegu with 22, Yamethin with 18, Bassein with 13, and Pyapôn with 10 cases fewer than in 1915. Firearms were used in 125 cases as against 150 in the previous year. As a result of the breaking up of armed gangs there was a decrease of 29 cases in the Amherst District, which nevertheless still heads the list with 21 cases. Throughout the Province firearms were used in 89 dacoities and 23 robberies. Four hundred and eighty-five murders were dealt with by the police, as against 473 in 1915. Tharrawaddy, with 52, had the largest number, but there were 30 or more in Henzada, Pegu and Prome. There was a drop in Hanthawaddy from 14 in 1915 to 4 in 1916. There were in all 79 cases of attempt to murder. The majority of the cases of murder are due to the usual motives, drink, passion, and revenge. There were 93 true cases of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The number of dacoities again increased and this year the total number was 215, which is the highest figure for a great number of years. The Divisions responsible for the increase are Pegu with 70 cases against 47 in 1915, and Magwe with 26 cases as against 10. Tharrawaddy, Prome, Henzada, Bassein and Insein Districts had between them 98 cases of dacoity. The number of robberies did not increase appreciably, being 485 as against 488 in the previous. There were increases in Insein, Bassein, Thatôn, and Thayetmyo and decreases in Kyaukpadaung, Pegu, Myaungmya, Pyapôn, Amherst, Toungoo, Mandalay, and Yamethin. The number of cases of house-breaking falling under sections 458-460 of the Indian Penal Code increased by 20 to 107. Other cases of house-breaking and house-trespass increased from 2,965 to 3,254. The increase was fairly general in all Districts, though there were decreases of 60 in Prome, of 42 in Bassein, of 39 in Tavoy, and of 25 in Toungoo. Tharrawaddy had the largest number of cases, 328, and also the largest increase, 75. Other heavy increases were in Myaungmya with 63, Pyapôn with 46, Akyab with 42, Thatôn with 35, and Kyaukse with 34. True cases of cattle-theft rose from 3,008 in 1915 to 3,348. Tharrawaddy had 546 cases, 112 more than in the previous year, Prome had 314, Bassein 298, Insein 253 and Pegu, Henzada and Toungoo each over 150. The number of true cases of ordinary theft was 12,538 or 596 more than in 1915. Myaungmya and Insein had the largest increases with 132 and 115 respectively. The largest decreases were in Tharrawaddy with 188 and Thatôn with 107. The increase in the number of thefts is attributed to the increased cost of living caused by the war.

36. Excluding cases classed as "false" or "mistaken," the number of cases finally dealt with by the police during the year was 40,262, an increase of 1,408 over the corresponding figure for the previous year. Of these cases convictions were obtained in 26,725 cases, or 66 per cent., which percentage is the same as in 1915. Excluding minor offences, and omitting cases which were compounded or in which the accused died, etc. 26,915 true cases were dealt with, of which 14,951, Working of the Police.

Case, III.—
Provision.

person or persons accused, while 9,069 were undetected. Of the cases sent up for trial 84 per cent. resulted in convictions. The number of persons dealt with under all classes of offences was 56,412, of whom 52,748 were brought to trial and 34,246 convicted. The results are somewhat better than in the previous year. Omitting those involved in minor offences, 34,669 persons were tried and 19,585 convicted. In this respect the results are the same as in the two previous years. The police refused investigation in a total number of 2,809 offences reported, as against a total number of 1,784 in the previous year. The falling off in successful detection of violent crime that had marked the previous year was continued in 1916, when conviction resulted in 582 cases involving 914 persons, of a total number of 914 cases involving 1,989 persons, sent up for trial. Thus 37 per cent. of the 2,495 persons dealt with, and 46 per cent. of those sent up for trial, were convicted. In murder cases the percentage of conviction to the total number of cases dealt with, and sent up for trial were 31 and 54 per cent. respectively, which is a falling-off from the standard of the previous year when the corresponding figures were 37 and 60. In dacoity cases only 27 per cent. of the cases dealt with, and 50 per cent. of the cases sent up for trial, resulted in conviction. The corresponding percentages for robbery cases were 44 and 69, again a poorer result than in the previous year. Cases of the aggravated forms of house-breaking resulted in convictions in 36 per cent. of the true reported cases, as against 40 per cent. in 1915. In the less serious forms of house-breaking, 35 per cent. of the cases dealt with ended in conviction. During the year cattle to the value of Rs. 3'38 lakhs were stolen and the value of those recovered was Rs. 2'09 lakhs. The value of property stolen was returned as Rs. 5'69 lakhs and that of property recovered was Rs. 1'44 lakhs.

Important
incidents.

37. The most important case dealt with during the year was one in which 4 persons were charged with and convicted of conspiracy under sections 121 and 121A of the Indian Penal Code and Rule 25 of the Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules. Otherwise the tale of the crime of the year contains no case of real importance to anyone other than the parties immediately concerned. The following cases have some human interest. In Lasein District a head constable and a party of villagers had a brush with two men suspected of cattle-theft. One of the men was captured and a villager was seriously injured. Arrangements were made to send the prisoner and the injured villager into the police-station and they started off accompanied by a head constable and two constables. On the way the party was attacked by ten men armed with guns. The prisoner was released and the wounded villager's throat was cut, after which the party decamped. The case was never detected. In Tharrawaddy a small boy was kidnapped and a ransom of Rs. 200 was demanded. The body of the boy was found in a well. Four men were sent up for trial and one was convicted and sentenced to death. A brutal robbery with murder was committed in Henzada District, where four men murdered a girl for her jewellery and killed her father also. The case remained undetected. In Ma-ubin two women with children in their arms were suddenly attacked by a man with a billet of wood. One of the women was killed, the other was chased and escaped but not before the child had been injured. The murderer was sentenced to death. The motive of the crime is supposed to have been revenge. In Amherst District a noteworthy case was the murder of Mr. McCaider, an Assistant of a Rubber Plantation Company, who was shot dead one night while seated at dinner. Investigation showed that the ostensible motive of the crime lay in the dismissal of a man for mismanagement and fraud, much of the information regarding which had been conveyed to the Directors by the deceased McCaider. One man was sent up for trial but the case resulted in an acquittal, although every effort was made to bring the case to light. A case of murder by poison occurred in Pakokko District when a Sub-Inspector of Police was investigating a case. After eating some food prepared in a village various persons, including the Sub-Inspector and a small child, were taken violently ill. The child died and arsenic was found in its stomach. A man was sent up for trial but was acquitted for lack of evidence. Two cases from the Lower Chindwin District may be mentioned.

the village gate. The headman had been energetically keeping order in a ~~part~~ preventing gambling and the sale of liquor. There was no doubt that he was murdered by some of the gamblers whom he had reported, but it was impossible to obtain sufficient evidence. In the other case a boy of seventeen murdered a little boy for the sake of his ornaments, which were of small value. He was acquitted for lack of evidence. The Superintendent of Police reports that this is the third case of child murder committed by this boy. The first occurred in 1913 and was undetected. The second occurred in 1915 and the third in 1916. In all these cases the children were murdered in the same way. They were given sweets and pice to allay their suspicions, and were then taken to a lonely place on the riverside where they were drowned and their ornaments removed. In the last case some of the ornaments were traced in a pawn-shop, but the fingerprints had been so badly taken that nothing could be made of them. In the Prome District several new gangs of dacoits were discovered. It was found that one gang under the leadership of a man named Nga San Gyaw had been engaged in dacoity ever since 1911. The gang possessed a double-barrel gun, a Webley revolver and a small Winchester rifle, together with several guns of local manufacture. The movements of this gang were followed for some time without success until the 13th May 1916, when the police surprised them when attacking the village of Ywatha, killed two of their members and captured the leader Nga San Gyaw. Previous to this the police had laid in wait for the gang on no less than thirteen occasions. In another case two men belonging to the above gang or an offshoot of it were killed and a third man was captured and sentenced to six years' imprisonment. In Henzada, the District Superintendent of Police, while on tour, received news of a dacoity in which twelve men armed with three locally made guns, ~~clubs~~ and spears were concerned. Armed with a gun and a revolver and accompanied by his Reader, he immediately started for the village which was a mile and a half away. He found a dacoity in progress and, immediately and unsupported, attacked the gang. He succeeded in wounding several of the dacoits and putting the gang to flight. As the dacoits were making their escape, they were attacked by the headman and some villagers, and the headman was killed. Eleven men were arrested in this case and ten were convicted. This gang was responsible for several other dacoities in the Bassein District. In the Ma-abin District a very brave resistance was offered to a gang of dacoits by two girls and two men. The men kept the dacoits at bay with their bows and arrows, although their shooting does not appear to have been very accurate. One of the girls resisted by throwing bottles at the enemy, while the other one beat the gong for assistance, which eventually arrived. All this time the gang was firing into the house. The case remained undetected, but the victims were suitably rewarded. The same District reports that a widower, in the hopes of obtaining a young and pretty wife, falsely gave out that he possessed a large sum of money. He was consequently attacked by three absconding dacoits from the Bassein District. The Minbu Police succeeded in breaking up a gang of dacoits which had been harrying the Magwe Division. In a dacoity reported, property to the value of Rs. 8,500 had been stolen. On receipt of information the police proceeded to an island on the Irrawaddy and surrounded several huts. Two men were arrested, one of whom was wanted for breaking out of the Magwe Jail in 1915. A certain amount of the dacoited property was found on their persons. After a search lasting for two days, two guns, a Winchester repeating rifle, and a repeating shot-gun which had been stolen earlier in the year, were found buried nearly two miles from the huts where the dacoits were originally arrested. Three men were convicted, and one was acquitted. Splendid pluck was shown by a woman in the Lashio District who personally set upon a man who was committing robbery on her brother. A daring robbery occurred in Prome Toon in which three burglars armed with a revolver entered a house. The police arrived on the scene while the robbery was in progress, and succeeded in capturing two of the men after the third had been killed. The revolver unfortunately was not secured as one of the men escaped with it before he was captured. The majority of the robberies committed in the Delta were boat robberies, and a very important gang under Nga Yo—whose operations were broken up by the Ma-abin Police. The

CHIEF-CLERK
PROMO-
TION

CHAP. III.—
PROSECUTION.

gang committed a robbery on a mail steamer one night at Danubyu and had made a haul of Rs. 700, when they were seen by one of the steamer's lascars, who in attempting to catch one of them was wounded. Two men were arrested and one was convicted. Nga Yo escaped but was eventually traced in Hanthawaddy District where he was arrested by a Sub-Inspector from the Ma-ubin District.

Offences
under
Special Acts.

38. The number of true cases dealt with under the Excise Act rose from 5,874 in 1915 to 6,575 in the year of report. The number of cases instituted by the Police was 1,855 or 162 more than in the previous year. The number of cases brought to trial was 6,516 of which 5,712, or 88 per cent., resulted in conviction. Eight thousand and five persons were dealt with, and 7,871 were tried, of whom 6,175 or 78 per cent. were convicted. The percentages of conviction are practically the same as in the previous year. In Minbu a very large seizure of 13,083 tolas of ganja was made by a village headman. Other large seizures in a single case were of 4,260 tolas at Tharrawaddy, of 4,588 tolas at Meiktila. The largest seizure of cocaine occurred in Bassein where 8,160 grains were taken at one haul. A seizure of 6,600 grains occurred in Yamethin, and one of 3,360 grains in Toungoo. Offences under the Opium Act decreased, the number of true cases dealt with being 2,072, as against 2,230 in 1915. Cases sent to trial numbered 2,026 of which 1,961, or 97 per cent., resulted in conviction. A total number of 2,624 persons were dealt with, 2,516 were brought to trial, and 2,064 convicted. There were 235 prosecutions under the Burma Opium Law Amendment Act, some 31 fewer than in the previous year. There were 144 convictions. Under the Gambling Act there were 3,745 cases, of which the number brought to trial was 3,680, conviction resulting in 2,823 cases. In all 27,954 persons were dealt with, of whom 26,525 were brought to trial, of whom again 14,162 were convicted. Thus 51 per cent. of the people dealt with were convicted. In Tharrawaddy, Prome, Pyapôn, and Mandalay over 84 per cent. of the cases dealt with resulted in conviction. Much less success was gained in some other Districts, the percentage of individual convictions to the total number of persons dealt with being 21 in Tavoy, 30 in Insein, 33 in Pegu, and 36 in Myaungmya. Under section 17 of the Gambling Act there were 199 prosecutions against persons alleged to be habitual gamblers and 156 convictions resulted. The Lower Chindwin District accounts for one-third of the total number of convictions in the Province. In Bassein 4 of a total number of 7 Chinese clubs were closed down, mainly owing to their having been centres for gambling. The closing down of the Chinese clubs in Rangoon led to large numbers of gamblers emigrating to Tavoy. Eight habitual Chinese gamblers were deported from that District. There were 644 prosecutions under the Arms Act, of which 610, or 95 per cent., resulted in conviction. Eight hundred and seven persons were sent for trial, of whom 634 or 79 per cent. were convicted. Tharrawaddy, Henzada, and Toungoo had the largest number of cases. The number of firearms seized during the year was 92, or 20 fewer than in the previous year. But the number of weapons voluntarily surrendered rose from 112 to 400, largely as a result of a successful effort made in the Akyab and Amherst Districts to induce the surrender of unlicensed guns.

Non-
cognizable
crime.

39. There was a decrease of 201 in the number of true cases of non-cognizable crime, 38,163 cases being dealt with. Conviction resulted in 27,232 cases, or 71 per cent. of the total number dealt with. The decrease is entirely due to a drop in the number of minor offences, as there was a slight increase in the more serious forms of crime.

Preventive
sections,
surveillance
and identi-
fication.

40. Two thousand one hundred and sixty-five persons were brought before the Courts under the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure and 1,845 or 85 per cent. were called on to furnish security. In the previous year 1,886 persons were required to furnish security out of a total number of 2,295 persons proceeded against. In the year of report there was increased activity in Insein, Prome, Bassein, Amherst, Tavoy, Pakôkku, Mandalay and Kyaukse. In Thatôn the number of prosecutions fell by 131, while there was a total decrease of 276 cases in the three Districts forming the Myaungmya Sessions Division. At the end

of 1915 the Police had on their registers the names of 3,741 persons under surveillance and of 134 prisoners conditionally released. The corresponding figures at the end of 1916 were 9,125 and 263. During the year 3,385 names were added to the surveillance registers, and 203 to that of the conditionally released prisoners. The number of men shown as having returned to an honest way of life was 3,457. But this number includes men whose reformation had occurred in previous years and had not been chronicled at the time, and also men whose names were expunged from the register as they were not really dangerous criminals. The number of proclaimed and absconding offenders during the year was 1,866. Five hundred and ninety-eight persons who had been proclaimed prior to 1916 were arrested during the year, and 832 persons advertised during the year of report were also arrested. A total number of 1,037 names was cancelled owing to death or other causes, leaving 4,545 absconders at large at the end of the year, as against a corresponding (revised) figure of 5,146 in 1915. A notable arrest during the year was that of the notorious outlaw Nga Myin *alias* U Pon Nya by the Minbu Police. This man, wearing the garb of a Buddhist monk, had led an attack on a police outpost in the Shwebo District as far back as 1907. The number of prisoners with previous convictions identified by the Police before sentence was 4,739. Of these 1,535 had three or more previous convictions. The number of slips received and accepted for record by the Finger Print Bureau was 17,089 as compared with 14,818 in the previous year. The total number of slips now on record is 162,124. Slips to the number of 2,384 were rejected for faulty record, as against 2,215 in 1915. During the year 7,764 slips were received for search and 2,025 were identified as pertaining to persons with previous convictions. Of these 55 were criminals under surveillance, and 44 were absconders. The finger-print slips of 1,110 police recruits and 285 railway employees were received. Of the police recruits, 27 were traced and found to be undesirables, while one of the railway employees was traced and found to have five previous convictions. A new system of classifying finger-prints, and a new method of indexing records, were introduced during the year and led to improved working. Expert evidence was given in 177 cases, of which 121 were criminal and 56 civil cases. In 6 cases evidence was given on commission. Written opinions were given in 202 cases, the majority of which were criminal.

CASES, MURDER PROSECUTION.

41. Additional police forces numbering 693 officers and men were maintained throughout the year in the Tharrawaddy, Pegu, Prome and Hanthawaddy Districts. Additional police establishments amounting to 10 officers and men in the Shwebo and Sagaing Districts were disbanded early in the year. No new case of the imposition of punitive police occurred during the year.

Punitive Police.

42. No alterations were made in the sanctioned strength of the Railway Police which stood at 62 officers and 371 men as in the previous year. At the close of 1916 there was an actual shortage of 1 officer and 6 men. The cost of the force was Rs. 1,82,700, a decrease of Rs. 5,321 due to the fact that the previous year's expenditure had included payment of arrears of rent for buildings. The discipline of the force was good. The number of dismissals and removals rose from 4 to 13, but the number of departmental punishments decreased by 16. Eleven officers and 30 men were rewarded. Thirty-seven recruits attended the depot, of whom 34 passed out, 9 obtaining first-class certificates. Eighty-five men attended the depot for recurrent training. Excluding cases in which investigation was refused and cases which were compounded, the number of true cases dealt with was 1,213, a decrease of 168 on the previous year's figures. Of these cases 732 resulted in conviction, 62 in acquittal or discharge, and 419 remained undetected. Out of 1,465 persons finally dealt with, 975, or 67 per cent., were convicted. There were 14 cases of attempt to derail trains, none of which resulted in conviction. Only 29 per cent. of the cases of ordinary theft dealt with, resulted in conviction. But, from the nature of the property stolen, detection was, in many cases, hopeless from the outset. Seventy-nine cases were dealt with under the Excise Act, of which 70 were sent to trial, of which again 94 per cent. resulted in conviction. Sixty-six true cases were dealt with under the Opium Act, of which

Railway Police.

CHAP. III.—
PROTECTION.

90 per cent. ended in conviction. Fifteen true cases were dealt with under the Arms Act, of which 14 ended in conviction. There was 1 case of murder, 1 of attempted murder, 3 dacoities, 6 robberies and 1 case of house-breaking. Convictions were obtained in the cases of three of the robberies and the attempt to murder. The number of criminals under surveillance on the registers of the railway police was 418. The number of proclaimed and absconding offenders at the end of 1915 was 87, to which number 15 more were added during the year. Ten such offenders were arrested, and 43 names were cancelled, so that at the end of the year there were 50 criminals under surveillance. Sixteen village headmen, 19 villagers, and 10 railway employees were rewarded during the year.

Military
Police.

43. On 31st December 1916 the actual strength of the military police was 16,693 Indian officers, non-commissioned officers and men, a number which was 272 above the sanctioned strength and 623 above the actual strength twelve months earlier. The embargo put on the recruiting of Sikhs, Western Punjabi Mahommedans, Dogras and Jats led, as in the previous year, to further changes in the caste composition of the battalions, and, as men of these races left to proceed on active service as volunteers, new companies of other races had to be raised, of Gurkhas, Garhwalis, Kumaonies and of the indigenous races of Burma. There are now indigenous companies of Burmans, Shans, Karens, Kachins and Chins. The most outstanding event of the year was the enlistment of a company of Burmans, which there was no difficulty in raising and maintaining. The number of military police volunteers sent to the war during the year was 2,641 including 30 signallers and 301 Mounted Infantry sent as a unit. The total number of volunteers despatched was thus brought up to 5,214 or about 30 per cent. of the total sanctioned strength. Numerous volunteers of all races are still impatiently waiting for permission to go. The men sent were attached to various Indian regiments at the front. The men on service have done well, as has been acknowledged by the Commanding Officers of some of the regiments to which they have been attached. But in some regiments invidious distinction has been made to the detriment of military policemen, in the matter of promotion and the recognition of good work. Military police signallers on service won high praise for the excellent work they performed. The following honours were gained at the war during the year:—three sepoy were awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd class; one Subadar was awarded the Order of British India, 2nd class; two Subadars and one sepoy were awarded the Indian Distinguished Service Medal; and one sepoy was mentioned in despatches. The total number of casualties reported since the war began amount to killed 137, died of wounds 34, died of disease 68, died of accidents 2, missing 30 and wounded 451. During the year columns of military police were called out to suppress disorder, actual or potential, in the Shan State of Mongshu, in the trans-Salween Shan State of Kokang, and in the Pakokku Hill Tracts. But no actual fighting took place. At Yenangyaung the military police post was reinforced to cope with increased disturbances. The passes on the Siamese border were picketed as in the previous year. Owing to a strike among Chinese coolies in Tavoy, a body of 53 Indian officers and men was sent there with a European officer in charge. The needs of Rangoon Town again demanded reinforcements, which were provided. The usual demand for military police patrols for Lower Burma Districts had to be refused. The total cost of the force amounted to Rs. 61.61 lakhs as against Rs. 59.88 lakhs in 1915, when the cost was abnormally low owing to the depletion of numbers caused by the departure on service of volunteers. There was a further expenditure of Rs. 3.36 lakhs under the Budget head "Political." The health of the force was better than in 1915, a result attributable partly to the granting of three months' war furlough during the year and partly to the fact that recruits were all trained at Meiktila, instead of being distributed among the different battalions. The number of casualties from all causes were 563 as against 795 in the previous year. The number of men who were sent on sick leave was 700, and the number of admissions to hospital 16,659, the corresponding figures for 1915 being 947 and 17,603. There was an increase in the number of admissions to hospital at Mandalay, in the Chin Hills and the Arakan Hill Tracts. Elsewhere there was a

marked decrease. During the year the total number of recruits was 3,391 of whom 220 Indians and 480 Burmans, Kachins, Karens and Shans were enlisted in Burma, and the remainder in India. Among the recruits were 679 Gurkhas, 555 Garhwalis, 486 Kumaonies, 335 Brahmans and 297 Ahirs. Casualties by death were markedly fewer than in the previous year being 2 Indian officers and 277 men as against 7 officers and 355 men. The number who left on pension and gratuity was also lower, *vis.*, 27 Indian officers and 283 men as against 26 officers and 423 men in 1915. The number of dismissals fell from 93 to 65. The number of desertions fell from 136 to 90. In the Myithyina Battalion the number fell from 50 to 24. The percentage of punishments to strength was 2.36 for Indian officers and 9.34 for men as against corresponding figures of 1.85 and 8.81 last year. The only crime noticeable as prevalent is "overstaying leave" generally by a few days. The rise in the percentage of punishments is attributable to the fact that the cream of the men have gone to the war and have been replaced by young recruits with an inevitable proportion of undesirables, to the increasing scarcity of experienced British officers, and frequent changes among those who remain.

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Patriot
1916.

44. The sanctioned strength of the Rangoon Town Police, including the Port Trust Police and the Hackney Carriage Police, at the beginning of 1916, *vis.*, 99 officers and 1,246 men, remained the same at the close of the year, with the exception that the number of officers was temporarily increased by the addition of three European Sergeants, for river-patrol work. The actual strength on 31st December 1916 stood at 101 officers and 1,185 men. The shortage of men is almost entirely due to the continuing impossibility of obtaining adequate numbers of Indian recruits, despite the fact that men are accepted who are under the physical standard and not of the most desirable type. The total cost of the force amounted to Rs. 7,12,835 as against Rs. 6,70,374 in the previous year. Apart from an all-round increase in expenditure due to the war, the rise is attributable to expenses in connection with the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy, to the temporary increase in the cadre of officers, and to the cost of repatriating undesirables and political suspects. Fourteen men were dismissed, 29 men removed and 4 men were discharged during the year, as compared with 27 men dismissed, 14 men removed, and 3 men discharged in the previous year. Six of the dismissals followed on conviction by a magistrate. Minor departmental punishments were imposed on 7 officers and 107 men as compared with 6 officers and 139 men in 1915. Four officers (including three European Sergeants who left for better-paid appointments in other departments), and 90 men resigned, as against 7 officers and 109 men in the previous year. Four men deserted, including two Indian constables, who may possibly have died while on leave. One officer and 11 men died during the year. Twenty-two men retired on pension or gratuity, most of them on account of ill-health. The health of the force continued to be unsatisfactory and the number of admissions to hospital large, a state of things which is attributed partly to extra work imposed on a depleted staff, and partly to bad and insufficient house-accommodation. One hundred and fifty-two recruits passed through the Training Depot during the year as compared with 231 in the previous year. In spite of unfavourable economic conditions due to high prices and a scarcity of employment, and of a general feeling of unrest due to the war, there was only a small increase in the volume of ordinary crime as compared with last year, while the number of cases of violent crime was actually less. The total number of cases taken cognizance of by the Police is down by 1,241 to 12,966. The decrease is more than accounted for by a fall in the number of petty offences, mainly against special and local laws, from 13,001 to 11,600. Cases of what may be considered true crime increased to 1,366, an advance of 160 on the previous year's figures. Non-cognizable crime dealt with by Magistrates showed a considerable increase from 9,813 in 1915 to 11,792, due mainly to more numerous prosecutions under the Indian Ports Act and the Burma Municipal Act. As regards serious crime, the number of offences against the State and public tranquillity was 26 as against 28 in the previous year. There were two cases of rioting, both of a petty nature. Serious

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Town Police.

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offences against the person fell by 18 to 138. There were 11 murders, as against 13 in the previous year. Abduction cases fell from 17 to 6, and cases of causing hurt from 52 to 47, while grievous hurt cases rose from 34 to 43. A rise in the number of serious offences against property, or against property and person, accounts for practically the whole of the increase in true crime. The number of dacoities fell from 6 to 2 but cases of burglary rose from 67 to 160, an increase which is attributed to the police being short-handed and preoccupied with extra duties. Cases of minor offences against the person numbered 13 as against 4 in 1915. Of cases classed as minor offences against property the number investigated rose from 772 to 805, the increase being due to cases of ordinary theft being more numerous. Of the total number of 1,372 cases of true crime, including 6 cases compounded and withdrawn, investigation was refused in 193 cases. Of the remaining 1,179 cases, convictions were obtained in 755, a percentage of 64 as against 67 in the previous year. Of 38 cases tried by the Court of Session during the year, 28 ended in conviction and 10 in acquittal, as against 47 cases, 34 convictions and 11 acquittals in the previous year. The total value of all property stolen was Rs. 1,25,120, of which only 18 per cent. was recovered. There were 692 prosecutions under the Excise Act, of which 84 per cent. resulted in conviction, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 763 and 88. Under the Opium Act 526 cases were instituted, of which 85 per cent. resulted in convictions as against the previous year's 668 cases and 89 per cent. Cases under the Arms Act numbered 19, all of which ended in conviction, as against 14 in 1915. There was a marked increase in the number of prosecutions under the Gambling Act, which rose from 13 cases with 11 convictions to 62 cases with 50 convictions. A crusade against gambling marked the year. In March all the Chinese clubs were closed down, and in consequence gambling-dens were started in the houses of Chinamen in all parts of the town. To the efforts of the Police to suppress these is due the markedly larger number of prosecutions. The closing-down of the Chinese clubs led to an increase of crime, to which many of the evicted hangers-on resorted for a living. The crusade against gambling also led to the notorious "China Street murder" case, in which three Chinamen, erroneously suspected of having given information which led to a raid, were murdered in China Street by Chinamen who were never brought to book. Under the Foreigners' Ordinance 840 vessels were met during the year and 1,696 Indian passengers passing through Rangoon en route to India were examined, in addition to 217,142 arriving from Calcutta. Two undesirable Chinamen were deported. Agitation by the Vigilance Society continued to keep the "social evil" in prominence during the year. There were 103 prosecutions under section 43(b), Rangoon Police Act, and 9 under section 43(c). To study methods of dealing with this problem a senior officer of police visited Calcutta, Madras, Colombo and Bombay during the year.

45. The number of headmen in Burma fell during the year 1916 from 17,238 to 17,059. The number of subordinate headmen decreased by 205 on the abolition of 27 posts of myothugyi or taikthugyi. The fact that the number of independent headmen did not increase with the reduction in the number of subordinate headman is due to the amalgamation of small charges. A departure has been made in the policy of Government in dealing with myothugyiships. The former declared policy of Government was to effect the gradual disappearance of myothugyiships, replacing them by village-tracts each under an independent headman. On the death, retirement or removal of a myothugyi, the myo was normally broken up into its component village-tracts. Whereas hitherto the specific approval of the Local Government was necessary for the retention of a myothugyiship on the death or retirement of an incumbent, this power has now been vested in Commissioners of Divisions. The Local Government had also under consideration during the year various schemes for raising and maintaining the dignity and authority of headmen, and in particular one for the formation of benches of headmen to exercise magisterial and executive functions in groups of village-tracts. Progress has been made with the work of demarcating the boundaries of village-tracts and of supplying to each headman a map of his charge. The only localities in which the work is not yet complete are outlying

portions of the Bhamo, Pakòkku and Katha Districts, and the Homalin and Maing-kaing Townships of the Upper Chindwin District. The number of headmen exercising special judicial powers increased during the year. At the close of the year special civil powers were held by 1,849, and special criminal powers by 1,654 headmen, the corresponding numbers at the beginning of the year being 1,802 and 1,580. Special powers are sought after more as a mark of personal distinction than for their actual effectiveness as an instrument of justice. For the number of cases decided by headmen exercising special powers continues to be small. The total amount of fines inflicted by headmen during the year rose by Rs. 5,463 to Rs. 1,47,042. Prome, with a total of Rs. 14,907, heads the list for the second year in succession. The Tharrawaddy District however showed the largest increase, *vis.*, Rs. 4,521, followed by Shwebo with an increase of Rs. 2,873. The number of cases in which headmen's orders were revised by District officials was 44,659 as against 30,887 in the previous year. The headman's order was confirmed in 98 per cent. of the cases. The revenue work of headmen was as usual satisfactory. Collections of land-revenue were promptly made and defalcations were commendably few. But cases of omission of households from the *thathameda-rolls* in Upper Burma, and of individuals from the capitation-tax rolls in Lower Burma, were not infrequent. Inequitable distribution of the total *thathameda* demand of the village among the constituent households, a work performed by the headman in consultation with *thamadis*, came to light in the Meiktila Division. The collection of capitation-tax was attended with slight difficulty in some areas, mainly through weak or dilatory headmen, but on the whole the tax was realized promptly. Though as usual apathetic in excise matters, headmen continued to give invaluable assistance to the police in the detection of crime. Relations between the headmen, villagers and police were excellent everywhere, with the possible exception of the Katha District, where the police are said to be losing touch with the people. An experiment of arming selected headmen with guns in the Pegu and Irrawaddy Divisions proved successful, as no dacoities or robberies took place in or near the protected villages, and no case of loss or misuse of the weapons was reported. Attention has been paid to rural sanitation and headmen and villagers are reported to be beginning to realize the advantages of a clean village. The efforts that are being made in some Divisions to induce the people to stall their cattle outside the village-fence should contribute towards improving the sanitary condition. In an epidemic of plague in the Sagaing Division, the villagers concerned showed great readiness in evacuating villages, in submitting to inoculation, and in taking other burdensome measures deemed advisable, a readiness which is evidence both of the good understanding which exists between the officials and the people and of the authority which the headmen exercise in their villages. The duty of recording vital statistics was carried out with some efficiency throughout the Province. Good work was done in the Sagaing, Magwe and Meiktila Divisions in connecting villages with roads and paths usable at all times of the year. The conduct of headmen throughout the year was uniformly satisfactory. The number of headmen punished was 273 by dismissal, 71 by suspension and 306 by fine, as against corresponding figures of 288, 81, and 430 in the previous year. The total number of punishments has thus decreased both absolutely and relatively, the percentage of headmen who were punished to the total number of headmen falling from 4.6 to 3.8. A decrease of punishments occurred in all Divisions except those of Pegu and Irrawaddy. In the Bassein District an increase in the number of fines imposed, from 2 in 1915 to 25 in 1916 was due to punishment for remissness in clearing away the *Beda* weed. The number of headmen throughout the Province who received rewards rose from 1,691 to 2,025. Headmen also performed valuable service by their enthusiastic co-operation in encouraging the people to subscribe to the War Fund and in recruiting for the Army and the Military Police. The number of fines imposed on village-tracts increased by 92 to 288 and the amount realised by Rs. 24,971 to Rs. 75,431. The Arakan, Irrawaddy, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions showed small decreases, which were more than counterbalanced by the large increases in the remaining Divisions notably Pegu. All the Districts of the Pegu Division show an increase, notably Tharrawaddy where the number rose from 16 to 57. This

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was due to the fact that the number of dacoities and robberies increased, necessitating action under section 13 of the Village Act. In the Thaton District fines were imposed on the inhabitants of several village-tracts for suppressing evidence in important cases, while an increase in Yamethin is due to action in cattle-maiming cases. As a contrast to this increase in punishments, in several cases villagers were rewarded for bravery in repelling attacks by dacoits. Cases in which the Track Law was applied increased from 13 to 40, the increase being most marked in the Tharrawaddy, Prome, Henzada, and Meiktila Districts.

Wild
animals and
snakes.

46. The total number of persons killed by wild animals during the year was 75 as against 66 in the previous year. The largest increase was in the Ruby Mines, where the mortality rose from 3 to 11, elephants and tigers each being responsible for four deaths more than in the previous year. Bhamo reported an increase of five, and Bassein, Minbu and Myingyan increases of four each. On the other hand no persons were killed in Kyaukpyu, against 11 in the previous year, the latter being the highest figure for 1915. Akyab and Pegu also reported decreases of five each. There was a fall in the mortality from snake-bite from 1,558 to 1,476. The biggest decrease was in Minbu where the deaths fell from 125 to 22. Pegu followed next with a decrease of 41 and Myaungmya and Ma-ubin with decreases of 22 each, whilst Tharrawaddy showed an increase of 45 and Magwe a further increase from 155 to 178. The Magwe figure appears to rebut the suggestion made in the previous year that increased activity in the destruction of snakes was responsible for the increase in the number of persons killed by snake-bite, for no snakes were reported to have been destroyed during 1916, as compared with 25,280 destroyed in the previous year, though it is hardly credible that no snakes at all were killed in the Magwe District in 1916, notwithstanding the stoppage of rewards for their reduction. Sir Lauder Brunton's lancets continued to be distributed in the majority of Districts, and cures were reported, but the usual doubt as to the venomousness of the snake in question persisted. The number of wild animals destroyed fell from 6,352 to 5,825. The biggest decrease, *vis.*, 428 was in Akyab, chiefly wild pigs, of which 459 only were destroyed, as compared with 877 in the previous year. In Katha the decrease amounted to 383, of which leopards numbered 302 and bears 61. There were also decreases ranging from 40 to 80 in the Toungoo, Thayetmyo and Amherst Districts. A sum of Rs. 77,827 as against Rs. 80,074 was paid for the destruction of wild animals, more than half in both years being paid for the destruction of leopards and panthers. The number of snakes destroyed fell from 34,757 to 11,905, Magwe, as already stated, accounting for the big decrease. Decreases of 631 and 406 were also reported by the Lower Chindwin and Sandoway Districts, respectively, which were more than counterbalanced by an increase of 1,771 in the Thaton District. Five other Districts showed an average increase of 436. No rewards were paid for the destruction of snakes against Rs. 11,641 in the previous year. The total number of gun licenses in force for the protection of crops and the destruction of wild animals rose from 7,530 to 7,675. The principal increases were in the Bhamo (149) and Akyab (83) Districts, while the Tenasserim Division showed a decrease of 95.

Criminal Justice.

General.

47. Burma is divided into two parts for the purposes of the administration of justice. In Lower Burma the administration of criminal justice is under the control of the Chief Court, which during 1916 consisted of its normal complement of five Judges, there being a temporary Additional Judge up till June 5th. The judiciary in Lower Burma consisted of 66 European, 289 Burmese and Indian Judges or Magistrates and 34 benches of Honorary Magistrates. The Tharrawaddy, Bassein and Ma-ubin (now the Myaungmya) Sessions Divisions were reconstituted with effect from January 1st, the Henzada District being transferred from the Tharrawaddy to the Bassein Division and the Myaungmya District from

the Bassein to the Myaungmya Division. The Sessions Judge, Tharrawaddy, was appointed Additional Sessions Judge, Bassein Division, and was directed to take three-quarters of the Henzada Sessions. In spite of this re-shuffling, it was thrice found necessary, in order to cope with an excess of work, to appoint, for short periods, an Additional Sessions Judge in the Bassein Division, and a like number of times in the Tenasserim Division. To give relief to the District Magistrate of Tavoy, the appointment of an Additional District Magistrate was continued throughout the year. In Amherst an Additional District Magistrate was appointed for six months and in September replaced by a Special Power Magistrate. To relieve the District Magistrate, Tharrawaddy, who had to undertake a special inquiry into the causes of crime in that District, an Additional District Magistrate was appointed at the end of July for a period of six months. At Mergui an Additional Magistrate with Special Powers was appointed for three months. The temporary appointment of Additional Magistrates at Kungyangon (Hanthawaddy District), Myaungmya, and Nyaunglebin (Pegu District) was continued throughout the year. In Upper Burma the Judicial Commissioner controls the administration of criminal justice. There was an Additional Judge of the Judicial Commissioner's Court throughout the year. In the Sagaing Division an Additional Sessions Judge, appointed on July 24th, tried all cases and heard all appeals during the remainder of the year. The Subdivisional Courts at Mogaung and Kamaing in the Myitkyina District were abolished on March 1st, and these areas added as two Townships to the Myitkyina Subdivision. On 1st July the Salè Township was transferred from the Myingyan to the Magwe District.

CASES REPORTED
UNDER THE INDIAN
PENAL CODE.

48. In Lower Burma the number of cases reported was 87,346 as against 85,816 in the previous year. The number of reported cases under the Indian Penal Code was 38,444, practically the same as the previous year's figure, so that the increase is almost entirely due to cases under Special and Local Laws, which rose from 47,689 to 49,002. The number of cases returned as true cases was 69,680, being 25,828 under the Indian Penal Code, and 43,852 under Special and Local Laws. The ratio borne by the number of cases returned as true cases to the number reported is practically the same as in the previous year, being 80 per cent. for all cases, 67 per cent. for cases under the Indian Penal Code and 89 per cent. for the petty cases. The number of true dacoity cases reported decreased in number, from 201 in the previous year, to 147. The variations under the heads of robbery, house-breaking and lurking house-trespass were negligible. True cases of cattle-theft increased from 1,565 to 1,643. True cases of offences affecting life brought to trial during the year numbered 457; murders rising by 41 to 342, cases of attempt falling by 37 to 43 and cases of culpable homicide falling by 9 to 29. Grievous hurt cases numbered 1,110, practically the same as in the previous year. Of offences under Special and Local Laws, true cases under the Excise Act reported during the year were 5,165 as against 4,799 in 1915. Insein District, with 87 per cent., shows the highest increase on the previous year's figures, and the highest number of cases is from Tharrawaddy with 666. In Rangoon the progressive decline from 849 in 1914 to 700 in 1915 and 554 in the year of report is attributed to a diminution in the illicit traffic in cocaine, supplies of which used to come from Germany. Cases under the Opium Act decreased from 2,293 to 2,072. Under the Forest Act, there was an increase from 768 to 871. Under the Arms Act, true cases reported fell from 474 to 447. Under the Gambling Act there was an increase from 1,872 to 2,023. In Upper Burma the number of offences reported during the year was 30,016, or 1,044 more than in the previous year. Under the Indian Penal Code there were 13,198 cases reported and 9,676 returned as true, as against 12,804 and 9,404 respectively in 1915. Under Special and Local Laws, there were 14,753 true cases out of 16,818 reported as against 14,567 and 16,168 in 1915. The increase of true cases under the Indian Penal Code is chiefly in offences against property, against the human body, and against public justice, with increases of 151, 58 and 49 respectively. The number of murder cases declined by 12 and cases of grievous hurt increased by 30. The number of dacoity cases was the same as in the previous year, while robberies increased by 10. There was an increase of

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tion.

174 cases reported under criminal trespass. The increase in offences reported under Special and Local Laws is chiefly due to an increase of 1,028 in the number of prosecutions under the Police Act for which Mandalay Town is almost entirely responsible. Prosecutions under the Excise Act rose from 1,715 to 1,928. An increase in the number of cases under the Forest Act from 511 to 699, is accounted for by 170 prosecutions in the Minbu District for failure to return expired licenses to cut bamboos. The number of cases instituted under the Gambling Act was 2,048 as against 2,031 in the previous year. The number of complaints summarily dismissed was 3,802 in Lower Burma and 1,009 in Upper Burma as against corresponding figures of 3,593 and 1,051 in 1915.

Disposal of
cases.

49. There were 84,141 cases brought to trial in Lower Burma, as against 83,240 in 1915. Of these 35,769 were cases under the Indian Penal Code, and 48,372 cases under Special and Local Laws. The total number of persons who underwent trial during the year was 141,432, as against 140,580 in 1915. The number of persons remaining under trial at the end of the year fell from 6,941 in 1915 to 6,660. The number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 619 as against 658 in 1915, while Additional District Magistrates disposed of 114. The number of cases disposed of by magistrates exercising special powers conferred under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was 2,047. Benches of Honorary Magistrates disposed of 28,466 cases, as against 27,563 in 1915, the Rangoon Bench accounting for 21,151 as against 20,251 in the previous year. The percentage of summary trials to the total remained the same as in the previous year, *vis.*, 43. The number of persons whose cases were disposed of by magistrates, and the number of persons who were convicted, committed to sessions, or whose cases were referred to a higher tribunal for sentence were respectively, in round numbers, 132 and 86 thousands, the same as in 1915. The percentage of cases resulting in conviction, commitment, or reference to the total number of cases was 65.39, the corresponding percentage in 1915 being 65.13. The number of cases in which proceedings were taken with a view to demanding security to keep the peace fell, from 105 cases affecting 163 persons in 1915, to 45 cases affecting 66 persons, of whom 61 were ordered to furnish security. The number of cases instituted with a view to demanding security for good behaviour fell, from 2,033 cases affecting 2,044 persons in 1915, to 1,814 cases affecting 1,840 persons, of whom 1,473 were required to furnish security. Applications for maintenance under section 488 of the Code of Criminal Procedure numbered 1,699 as against 1,768 in 1915, successful applications being 982 as against 1,108. The number of cases committed to Courts of Session during the year fell from 600 involving 1,044 persons to 560 involving 984 persons. The percentage of convictions was 59.49 as against 58.99 in 1915. The number of cases committed to the Chief Court was 40 involving 67 persons, as against 45 involving 72 persons in 1915. Thirty-eight cases were disposed of, involving 66 persons, of whom 23 were discharged or acquitted and 43 were convicted. The percentage of conviction was 65.15 as against 57.52 in 1915. The number of death sentences referred to the Chief Court for confirmation was 116, and the number of confirmations 75 as against corresponding figures of 111 and 57 in the previous year. The average duration of all criminal cases rose to 15 days, the highest figure ever recorded. The average duration of cases tried by stipendiary magistrates sitting singly, which constitute the vast majority of the more important classes of criminal case, was 20 days. The average duration of sessions cases rose from 45 days in 1915 to 59 days in the year of report. The total number of witnesses examined increased from 330,110 to 333,178. In Upper Burma the total number of criminal cases brought before the courts for trial was 29,574 cases or 1,101 more than in the previous year, the number of persons undergoing trial rising to 52,994 from 50,008. Cases under the Indian Penal Code rose by 455 to 12,736 and cases under Special and Local Laws by 646 to 16,838. The number of cases disposed of by magistrates was 28,726 or 1,459 more than in the previous year. Of these, 10,025 cases were disposed of summarily as compared with 9,793 in 1915. The number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates fell by 88 to 733. Cases disposed of by District Magistrates under their special powers

numbered 201, as against 208 in 1915. The number of cases disposed of by benches of Honorary Magistrates rose from 6,870 to 7,512, to which total the Mandalay Bench contributed 6,050. Magistrates had before them under trial 53,023 persons, as compared with 50,036 persons in 1915. The number whose cases were disposed of was 50,436, or 2,750 persons more than in the previous year. Of these 59.65 per cent. were convicted, committed, or referred, as against 61.76 in the previous year. The number of cases in which proceedings were instituted with a view to demanding security to keep the peace was 72 as against 120 in the preceding year. Sixty-five persons were ordered to furnish security as against 100 in 1915. The number of persons called upon to show cause against being ordered to furnish security for their good behaviour was 773, of whom 593 were required to furnish such security, the corresponding figures being 734 and 546 in the previous year. Applications for maintenance numbered 1,618 as against 1,663 in the previous year, and the number of successful applications 949 as against 943. The number of persons whose cases were committed to Courts of Session was 237, or 11 less than in the previous year. Cases disposed of by Courts of Session numbered 150 involving 225 persons as compared with 168 cases and 236 persons in 1915. The percentage of convictions was 69.78 or 8.19 lower than in the previous year. The numbers of cases committed to sessions during the years 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916 were 163, 117, 161 and 110 respectively. No explanation can be given of this curious fluctuation. The cases of 41 persons came before the Judicial Commissioner for confirmation of death sentences, as against 59 persons in 1915. The sentence was confirmed in 25 cases as against 37. The average duration of cases was 12 days, or 1 day higher than in 1915. The duration of cases tried by Courts of Session averaged 49 days as against 48 days in the previous year. The total number of witnesses examined was 101,736.

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PROSECUTION.

50. In Lower Burma the number of death sentences increased from 58 to 76. The number of persons sentenced to transportation decreased from 499 to 425. The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment decreased from 17,856 to 17,704, of whom 3,137 received sentences of simple imprisonment as against 3,523 in the previous year. The number sentenced to imprisonment for 15 days and under decreased from 4,363 to 3,999 a decrease which the Honourable Judges of the Chief Court welcome as an instalment of what they hope is going to be a much more sweeping reduction in this class of sentence, which is open to obvious objections. Solitary confinement was imposed as a punishment in 686 cases against 754 in 1915. The number of whippings inflicted increased from 1,700 to 1,722. The number of juveniles whipped was 116 as against 124 in the previous year. There were 8 illegal sentences of whipping as against 11 in 1915 and 23 in 1914. The number of persons who were sentenced to pay fines was practically the same as in 1915 being 64,222 as against 62,645. The total amount of fines imposed was Rs. 6.12 lakhs as against Rs. 5.83 lakhs in the previous year, the amount of fines realized rising to Rs. 5.29 lakhs from Rs. 4.83 lakhs. The amount paid out of fines as damages under the provisions of section 545, Code of Criminal Procedure, fell by Rs. 4,677 to Rs. 27,348. There was a regrettable decrease from 1,148 to 914 in the number of first offenders released on security under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Nineteen youthful offenders were sent to a reformatory school, as against 9 in the previous year.

In Upper Burma the number of persons punished rose from 28,606 to 29,296 persons. The number of death sentences fell from 37 to 25. The number of persons sentenced to transportation was 88, as against 89 in the previous year. Sentences of rigorous imprisonment fell from 3,556 to 3,414, while sentences of simple imprisonment rose from 187 to 245. The number of persons punished by fine rose from 24,323 to 24,970. The number of persons punished by whipping rose from 593 to 700. Sixty-five juveniles were sentenced to whipping as against 50 in 1915. The total amount of fines imposed declined from Rs. 2.69 lakhs to Rs. 2.56 lakhs, and the total amount realized from Rs. 2.34 lakhs to Rs. 2.29 lakhs. The amount of compensation awarded out of fines declined from Rs. 20,995 to Rs. 19,477. The number of first offenders released on security declined by 17 to 371.

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tion.

Appeals.

51. In Lower Burma the rise in the number of appeals preferred by convicted persons which had marked the year 1915, was slightly more than maintained in 1916, the figures being 8,053 in 1914, 9,218 in 1915, and 9,370 in 1916. During the year appeals preferred in the Courts of District Magistrates and Magistrates empowered under section 407, Criminal Procedure Code, decreased by 319 to 1,545, while the number in Courts of Session increased by 422 to 6,361, and the number in the Chief Court by 49 to 1,464. The appeals of 597 persons remained pending at the end of the year, as against 399 at the end of 1915. The percentage of sentences wholly confirmed to the total disposed of by all appellate courts was 70.41, as against 69.37 in 1915, and the percentage completely reversed 16.21 as against 15.89. In Sessions Courts the corresponding percentages varied from 79 to 65 and from 11 to 19. In the Chief Court the percentage of confirmation increased from 71.27 to 73.76 and that of complete reversal from 13.27 to 14.44. The Local Government preferred six appeals against the acquittal of 63 persons, being successful in the only case decided during the year. The average duration of appeals in all courts was 22 days, as against 25 in 1915, in the Chief Court 37 days as against 32, in District Magistrates' Courts 11 days as against 8. In Courts of Session, which deal with nearly two-thirds of the total number of appeals, the duration decreased from 28 to 21 days. In Upper Burma the total number of appeals preferred declined from 2,706 to 2,538. In the Court of the Judicial Commissioner the number declined from 252 to 209 and in the Courts of District Magistrates from 1,125 to 977. In Courts of Session, however, there was a slight rise from 1,329 to 1,352. The percentage borne by the number of sentences wholly confirmed on appeal to the total number dealt with fell from 59.05 in 1915 to 56.09 in 1916. The percentage of confirmations in the Judicial Commissioner's Court was 69.00, or 6.11 lower than in the preceding year, and in Sessions Courts also it declined from 63.01 to 54.20. But in the Courts of District Magistrates it rose from 51.04 to 56.00. The average duration of appeals dropped from 19 to 13 days. In the Courts of District Magistrates it fell from 16 to 10 days and in Sessions Courts it remained unaltered at 12 days.

Revisions.

52. In Lower Burma District Magistrates had before them on revision 6,760 cases involving 11,698 persons against 5,584 cases involving 10,604 persons in the preceding year. Further inquiry was ordered in regard to 252 persons as against 193 in 1915 and reference was made to the Chief Court in the case of 108 persons as against 193. In Courts of Session the number of persons whose cases were revised was 3,862 as against 3,838. Further inquiry was ordered in the case of 35 persons as against 46, and the cases of 178 persons were referred to the Chief Court as against 196. The cases of 2,189 persons came before the Chief Court in revision as against 1,777 in 1915. The orders of lower courts were confirmed in the cases of 1,644 persons as against 954, sentences were enhanced in 39 cases as against 23, reduced in 94 as against 74, and reversed in 217 as against 196. In Upper Burma District Magistrates disposed of 5,104 cases on revision, being 883 more than in the previous year. The number of cases called for under the Criminal Justice Regulation was 3,092. In 95 per cent. of these, the orders of the lower court were confirmed. In cases called for otherwise, the percentage of confirmations was 94.57. Courts of Session dealt with on revision cases involving 3,001 persons and confirmed the orders of the lower court in cases affecting 2,892 persons. The number of cases dealt with on revision by the Judicial Commissioner rose from 1,158 involving 2,051 persons to 1,163 cases involving 1,812 persons, of which 100 cases involving 195 persons were cases reported by lower courts. In the cases of 80.46 per cent. of the persons concerned, the orders of the lower court were confirmed as against a corresponding figure of 84.23 in 1915.

Prisons.

Accommo-
dation.

53. The accommodation for males in the prisons of the Province in the year 1916 reached 16,469, or an increase of 356, and that for females was 320, the same as in the previous year. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes was 18,020 or 1,231 in excess of the accommodation available; but taking

into account the convict class alone (16,767), the capacity was overtaxed to the extent of 1,612. The overcrowding, which affected nearly all the jails, was, as far as possible, relieved by transfers. Taken collectively, the accommodation for under-trial prisoners was adequate; but, at some three jails there was considerable overcrowding among this class. At one of these jails the work of providing additional accommodation is in progress. One thousand and ninety-seven convicts who, from the state of their health, the period passed in jail, their conduct, etc., were deemed to be deserving of clemency, were released by order of Government, 327 on account of sickness and 770 on other grounds, the object being to relieve, in a measure, the congested state of the jails in the Province. The scheme for the employment of prisoners on public works, such as road-making, etc., received further consideration during the year. The extensions to the jails at Henzada and Mandalay have resulted in additional accommodation for 346 convicts, *viz.* 60 at the former and 286 at the latter jail. New wards were constructed at Mandalay for 66 male under-trial prisoners and 16 male civil prisoners, the old wards being absorbed in the extra accommodation provided for convicts. Good progress has been made with the jail extensions at Insein.

CHIEF
PROSECUTION

54. The year opened with a population of 18,285 prisoners of all classes; 43,197 were received and 44,017 were discharged, leaving the number in confinement at the close of the year at 17,465—the corresponding figures for 1915 being 17,654, 43,700, 43,069 and 18,285. The daily average strength of all classes rose from 17,475 to 18,020. Convicts and civil prisoners show an increase of 517 and 53, respectively; under-trial prisoners returned a decrease of 25. The number of juveniles under 16 years of age, admitted into jail was 57 (52 boys and 5 girls), compared with 102 (97 boys and 5 girls) in the previous year; 273 juveniles, against 302 in 1915, were sent to the jails to be whipped. The percentage of re-convicted prisoners rose from 27.03 to 27.29, the highest figure appearing at Kyaukpyu (42.97), closely followed by Sandoway (41.72); it was again lowest at Bhamo (7.46). The figure was nil for the juvenile jail at Meiktila. Of the 19 juveniles (18 males and one female) under fifteen years of age admitted during 1916, only 3 (all males) had been previously convicted, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 44 (41 males and 3 females) with 6 males previously convicted. Thirteen of the 19 male juveniles were sent to the Reformatory School at Insein. As regards the nature of sentences, 387 prisoners were awarded simple imprisonment, 20,354 rigorous imprisonment, 874 rigorous imprisonment with solitary confinement and 34 rigorous imprisonment with whipping, compared with 374, 20,005, 899 and 44, respectively, in 1915. The identification of habitual prisoners was effected, before conviction, in 5,615 cases, and in jails in 20 cases, against 5,542 and 46, respectively, the previous year.

Prisoners.

55. The total number of offences committed, including offences dealt with by Criminal Courts, was 28,723 or a decrease of 2,971 as compared with 1915. The decrease occurs under all heads, but it is most noticeable under offences relating to work and all other breaches of jail rules. Penal diet was awarded in only 2,081 cases, against 2,427 in 1915. Offences relating to assaults, mutiny and escapes show a decrease of 183. Of the assaults, committed, only one, as in the previous year, proved fatal. The number of whippings was 81, compared with 73 in 1915, 24 being accounted for by the Rangoon Jail, against 3 in the previous year; this abnormal increase may be explained as being due to difference of practice by successive Superintendents. The number of escapes was 6, *etc.* 1 from inside and 5 from outside the jail—compared with 8 in 1915. Of those that escaped, 5 were re-captured before the close of the year. A percentage of 58.41 of the total punishments was awarded to habituals, who formed 41.74 per cent. of the daily average convict population. In comparison with 1915, there was a decrease of 1,162 in the punishments awarded convict officers. The services rendered by this class are, generally speaking, satisfactory.

Discipline.

56. The total expenditure was Rs. 11,45,148 against Rs. 11,55,248, showing a decrease of Rs. 10,100. The gross cost per prisoner was Rs. 63-8-9, compared

Financial.

CHAP. III.—
PRISON-
TEND.

with Rs. 66-1-9 in 1915 and Rs. 69-10-1 in 1914. The net cost per prisoner fell from Rs. 57-8-0 in 1914 and Rs. 53-1-0 in 1915 to Rs. 51-1-9. The quantity of vegetables consumed by the prison population was 1,748 tons, against 1,680 tons in 1915, the increase being due to a larger daily average. The supply of jail-grown vegetables over and above requirements was sold and realized Rs. 10,495, compared with Rs. 9,058 in the previous year. The farm produce, other than vegetables, was valued at Rs. 32,754, compared with Rs. 26,366 in 1915. Convict labour supplied to the Jail Branch Press, and to the Public Works Department, was valued at Rs. 79,853 or Rs. 1,200 more than in the previous year. No credit for this amount is taken in the Jail accounts.

Vital.

57. The rise in the ratios per mille of admissions to hospital and of daily average sick which had marked the previous three years, persisted in 1916 when they were respectively 307 and 17.04, as against 277 and 15.85 in 1915. The total number of deaths, however, fell from 351 in 1915 to 319, and the ratio of deaths per mille from 20.09 to 17.70. The outstanding feature of the year of report is its freedom from cholera, a disease which, as usual, accounted for many deaths among the outside population. At six jails, *vis.* Myanaung, Mergui, Shwebo, Kindat, Taungdwingyi and Meiktila there were no deaths during the year. Among the Central Jails, Mandalay headed the death-rate with 30.84 per mille; and among the District Jails, Moulmein with 29.64 per mille. The highest percentages of opium consumers are recorded against Akyab (44.39), Kyaukpyu (32.70), Bhamo (30.60), Katha (26.46), Kindat (21.62), and Henzada (19.81). Of the 319 deaths, 59 (against 40 in the previous year) were among those addicted to the opium habit. Morphinism accounted for 15 deaths. As usual, the largest number of cases were treated at the Rangoon Jail, the number being 64 with 13 deaths. At this jail 46 per cent. of the deaths were directly or indirectly due to the abuse of opium, morphine and cocaine.

Miscellaneous.

58. The Juvenile Jail at Meiktila, where the daily average number of inmates was 81 compared with 110 in 1915 and 119 in 1914, continued to be worked on the same system as in the previous year. The general management of the juveniles, all of whom were "casuals," was never found to be difficult. On admission to jail the rules are carefully explained to the youths, especially the remission system, a description of prison offences, the prospects of release in the case of those attaining the age of 18 or 20 years (as the case may be), provided their work and conduct have been good, and the several other privileges admissible. The conduct of the boys, on the whole, was very satisfactory. Three, who were likely to have an evil influence on the other boys, were transferred. Eleven, against 15 in the previous year, gained special remission for being free of punishment for 12 months. Every boy, except those physically unfit and those working extramurally, has to attend drill and gymnastics daily. After the evening meal all the youths are permitted to play foot-ball, or *chinton*. The handicrafts, in which the longer term youths are instructed, were, as in previous years, carpentry, blacksmiths' work, timber-sawing, tinsmithing, and shoe-making while the short-termers were chiefly employed on gardening. Paddy-grinding was done by the new admissions. Five of the juveniles, released during the year, were granted sets of tools to enable them to carry on the trades they were taught in jail. Of the 36 juveniles who were presented with sets of tools between the years 1912 to 1915, only 19 or 52.78 per cent. are making proper use of them. In 11 cases the tools were recalled, in 3 the youths were employed as cart-drivers, in 2 instances the boys were not traceable, and in the remaining one the lad had died and the tools could not be found. The Vernacular School was successfully carried on up to the Seventh Standard. The maximum number under tuition was 91, against 112 in 1915, and 115 in 1914. The explanation for this decrease is to be found in the fact that between October and December 1915, 53 lads, mostly sentenced to long terms, were ordered to be released. During the year two Buddhist monks paid visits to the Jail and, between them, held 49 religious services, which were said to be much appreciated. The subject of the sermons was chiefly advice in the way of reformation, and encouragement to lead an honest and respectable life.

after release. The scheme of manual training for young convicts was carried out at the 7 Central Jails and at the Toungoo and Akyab District Jails; during the year it was introduced at Moulmein. Youthful prisoners are instructed in handicrafts, which they show an inclination for, and which are likely to be helpful to them in earning a livelihood on release. Those who have attained proficiency are given sets of tools to be used after their release. The Juvenile School at the Rangoon Jail was examined by the Deputy Inspector of Schools on the 9th February 1917. Of the 12 pupils in the Infant class and 4 in the First Standard borne on the rolls, 6 in the former and 3 in the latter were presented for examination, and all passed. The principle of the separation of habitual and non-habitual prisoners was, as usual, observed in all jails so far as structural arrangements admit. The separation of different classes—civil prisoners, juveniles and under-trials, as well as casuals and habituals—is imperfect in many of the jails, especially the smaller ones. This is not due to the lack of appreciation of the necessity for separation, but to structural deficiencies and overcrowding. The difficulty is fully recognized and Superintendents of Jails do their best in the circumstances. The possibility of improving matters is receiving attention anew. During the year 5,694 convicts, against 5,888 in 1915, were released under the remission rules. Of convicts who were eligible, three failed to gain remission, while the number for the previous year was *nil*. The number of convicts who were awarded special remission for being free of punishment for twelve months was 3,025, compared with 2,554 in 1915.

During the year an interesting experiment was started. The Salvation Army proposed that they should do something for the prison community and, at the instance of the Local Government, plans were discussed with the officers of that body and the Inspector-General of Prisons. With the sanction and financial assistance of the Government, a home for young released prisoners, and for those released conditionally under section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code, was started at Kemmendine, a suburb of Rangoon. The formation of this home brings Rangoon into line with Bombay, Madras and Lahore, where the Salvation Army has organized methods of helping prisoners to return to honest life. The Rangoon system is on a small scale but, if successful, it will doubtless lead to something more ambitious in the way of diminishing the volume of crime.

Civil Justice.

59. The administration of Civil Justice in Lower Burma is under the control of the Chief Court, which during the year consisted of its normal complement of five Judges, there being a temporary Additional Judge up till June 4th, 1916. The Districts included in the Tharrawaddy, Bassein and Ma-ubin Civil and Sessions Divisions were re-grouped with effect from 1st January 1916. The Tharrawaddy Division since that date has consisted of the Tharrawaddy District alone, the Judge being also appointed to be Additional Judge in the Bassein Division. The Bassein Division consists of the Bassein and Henzada Districts. The Ma-ubin, Myaungmya and Pyapôn Districts are combined in one Division with headquarters at Myaungmya. The pressure of criminal work in the Bassein Division necessitated the appointment of Additional Divisional and Sessions Judges for short periods. An Additional Judge was appointed to the District Courts of Hanthawaddy and Insein for a period of one and a half months. The appointment of an Additional District Judge, Tavoy, was continued throughout the year. With effect from 1st March 1916 the old Bassein Township was split up into two Townships, Bassein West and Bassein East. The distribution of the work of the Township Courts in the Bassein District was re-arranged so that the number of officers was not increased. The Kyauktan Township was split into two by the formation of a new Township at Syriam. Again arrangements were made so that there was no increase in the number of officers. The Township Court, Thanatpin, was invested with the powers of a Small Cause Court in suits up to a value of Rs. 50; and the Township Court, Pegu, was invested with similar powers, to be exercised in cases arising outside the limits of the Pegu Municipality. In Upper Burma the Judicial Commissioner controls the administration of Civil Justice.

The temporary appointment of an Additional Judge of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner was continued throughout the year.

60. The volume of litigation in Lower Burma remained practically the same as in 1915, the number of suits instituted being 50,783 as against 51,208. The total number of suits for money and movable property decreased from 46,781 to 45,805. The Chief Court showed a decrease from 165 to 139 and the Court of Small Causes of Rangoon a decrease from 9,348 to 8,449. The total for Courts in the interior differed by only 51 from that of 1915, the variations for the different classes of courts being negligible. But there are notable variations in the District figures, Pyawb, Amherst and Tharrawaddy exhibiting large decreases, and Akyab and Kyaukpyu equally marked increases. The rise in Akyab is due to a change of policy on the part of one of the banks in the direction of restricting credit and calling in loans, a change whose effect was enhanced by the fact that, owing to the low price of paddy, many of the smaller class of debtors could not meet their obligations. The fluctuations elsewhere can be assigned to no general cause. Suits for immovable property showed an increase from 1,148 to 1,455, for which Township Courts, with 1,115 institutions as against 831 in 1915, were mainly responsible, and which was evenly distributed among the Districts. A contributory cause of this increase was a ruling in the Chief Court to the effect that suits for land over which a landowner's right has not accrued, lie before Civil Courts and not before Revenue Officers. Suits for specific relief increased from 490 to 688. Amherst, Thaton and Myaungmya shewed remarkable increases from 6, 12 and 9 to 42, 41 and 44 respectively. Mortgage-suits increased from 1,933 to 2,116, Subdivisional Courts with 467 as against 367 and District Courts with 256 as against 182 being mainly responsible. Fluctuations in the District figures were slight except in the case of Akyab, Prome and Myaungmya with 293, 173 and 165 as against 244, 108 and 130 respectively, and Tharrawaddy with 177 as against 203. The increase in the number of mortgage-suits points to a continued attempt to realize pre-war loans, and to the fact that since the outbreak of war the number of loans on the security of land has increased relatively to the number of loans otherwise secured. The aggregate value of all suits instituted fell from Rs. 1,90'63 lakhs to Rs. 1,49'31 lakhs. The value of suits filed in the Small Cause Courts outside Rangoon remained practically at the level of the previous year but that of suits filed in the Rangoon Court decreased by over Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 17'41 lakhs. In Township Courts there was a decrease from Rs. 40'07 lakhs to Rs. 39'36 lakhs, and in Subdivisional Courts an increase from Rs. 21'84 lakhs to Rs. 23'35 lakhs. The Courts with unlimited jurisdiction exhibit as usual violent fluctuations due to the abnormal value of a few suits. In District Courts a rise from Rs. 36'62 lakhs to Rs. 44'23 lakhs is due to a single suit in Thayetmyo. In the Chief Court a decrease of Rs. 45 lakhs, from Rs. 66 lakhs to Rs. 21 lakhs, is mainly due to the fact that in 1915 the aggregate value was abnormally large owing to three suits whose combined value was Rs. 41 lakhs. The number of suits disposed of was 51,232 as against 51,338 in 1915. Of these 23'02 per cent. were contested as against 23'2 per cent. in 1915, the plaintiffs' percentage of success in these being 70'1 as against 70'2. The percentage of suits decreed on confession declined from 25'04 to 24'3, while the percentage of suits decreed *ex-parte* declined from 26'03 to 25'8. The number of cases pending at the end of the year rose from 5,643 to 5,816, but of these only 2,247 had been pending for over three months, as against the corresponding figure of 2,339 at the end of 1915. The average duration of contested cases increased from 77 to 79 days, and of uncontested cases from 45 to 49 days. For contested cases in District and Subdivisional Courts, the average duration fell from 241 days and 154 days respectively in 1915 to 212 and 147. In uncontested cases, the duration in District Courts was 72 days, as against 123 days in 1915, and in Subdivisional Courts 62 days as against 66. In Township Courts contested cases averaged 68 days, as against 63 in 1915, while the duration of uncontested cases was 40 days as against 35. In Upper Burma there was practically no alteration in the volume of litigation, there being only a slight increase in the total number of suits from 21,188 to 21,310. This increase is more than accounted for by

a rise in the number of suits instituted in Township Courts from 18,385 to 18,573. The figures for Subdivisional and Small Cause Courts show very little variation from the previous year. Suits in District Courts fell from 398 to 322. Among the Districts, Magwe shows the most marked increase in the number of suits instituted, while Pakokku, Katha, and the Upper Chindwin show decreases. There was a very small increase in the number of suits for money or movable property from 19,410 to 19,440. The number of suits concerning immovable property was practically stationary, being 562 as against 567 in 1915. The number of matrimonial suits fell from 451 to 408. The total value of suits declined from Rs. 35.26 lakhs to Rs. 29.18 lakhs. Magwe was responsible for a decline of over Rs. 3 lakhs, and Mandalay for over a lakh and a half of rupees. The decrease in Magwe is a return to the normal, last year's figures being exceptionally high owing to litigation between owners of oil-wells. The decrease in the total value of all suits is almost all accounted for by a fall in the value of suits in District Courts from Rs. 11.08 lakhs to Rs. 5.30 lakhs. The number of suits disposed of during the year was 21,531, or 620 more than in 1915. Of the cases disposed of 23.61 per cent. were contested as against 23.28 in 1915. There were 2,963 cases decreed *ex-parte* as against 2,937. The number of cases referred to arbitration fell from 56 to 46. The percentage of plaintiffs' success in contested cases was 68 as against 67 in the previous year. The number of cases pending at the end of the year was 2,197, as against 2,320 in 1915. Mandalay with 539 cases is the outstanding contribution. The cases that had been pending for over three months numbered 662 as against 674 at the end of the previous year. In both contested and uncontested cases the average duration rose, from 77 to 80 for the former, and from 40 to 41 for the latter.

In Lower Burma the number of miscellaneous cases for disposal was 7,209 against 6,778, the number pending at the end of the year being 901 as against 825. In Upper Burma 2,079 miscellaneous cases were disposed of, and there were 382 cases pending at the end of the year, as against 1,732 and 343 respectively in the previous year. The number of applications for execution before the Courts was 39,252, as against 38,176, the number remaining pending at the end of the year being 5,807, as against 5,524. The amount realized increased from Rs. 20.80 lakhs to Rs. 22.44 lakhs an increase of Rs. 2.52 lakhs in courts in the interior being partly nullified by a decrease of Rs. .88 lakh in the Chief Court and the Rangoon Small Causes Court. In Upper Burma the number of applications for the execution of decrees that came before the Courts for disposal was 12,772, as against 12,381 in 1915, and the number remaining pending at the close of the year 2,479, as against 2,462 at the end of 1915. The total realizations from execution of decrees was Rs. 4.68 lakhs, or Rs. 1.44 lakhs less than in 1915. The number of judgment-debtors imprisoned increased from 659 to 675 in Lower Burma and was 112 as against 114 in Upper Burma. The number arrested and released without imprisonment increased in Lower Burma from 1,824 to 2,091, and in Upper Burma decreased from 1,095 to 1,075. Sales of movable property in Lower Burma fell from 184 to 129, and in Upper Burma rose from 354 to 409. Immoveable property was sold in 1,749 cases in Lower Burma, and in 413 cases in Upper Burma, as against corresponding figures of 1,468 and 361 in the previous year. The number of insolvency petitions in Lower Burma more than maintained the marked rise shown in the previous year, the number of cases for disposal increasing from 390 in 1914, to 663 in 1915, and to 724 in 1916. In Upper Burma there were 352 cases, as against 299 in the previous year. In Lower Burma 190 petitions were dismissed and in Upper Burma 76.

61. The total number of appeals from decrees before the Courts in Lower Burma was 3,408, as against 3,707 in 1915. Appeals preferred in District Courts against the decrees of Township Courts increased from 1,617 to 1,701. Of these 98 were summarily dismissed, as against 80 in 1915. The percentage of confirmations was 63.8 as against 62.6, of modifications 8.2 as against 8.1, of reversals 25.3 as against 26.2, and of remands 2.5 as against 3.2. The average duration, 54 days, was the same as in the previous year. The number of appeals against decrees preferred in Divisional Courts decreased progressively from 557 in

CHIEF JUSTICE
PROVINCIAL
JUDGES

Appeals.

Chancery
Process
1915.

1914, to 436 in 1915, to 363 in the year of report, of which 131 remained pending at the end of the year, as against 174 at the end of 1915. The percentage of confirmations was 63.05 as against 63.3, of modifications 14.3 as against 11, of reversals 19.7 as against 22.7, of remands 2.9 as against 2. The average duration rose from 114 to 147 days. Miscellaneous appeals before District and Divisional Courts numbered 253, as against 203 in the previous year and the number pending at the end of the year was 35 as against 26.

In Upper Burma the total number of appeals against decrees was 3,024, as against 3,089 in the previous year. In District Courts there were 1,813 cases, of which 1,457 were disposed of during the year, as against 1,773 and 1,456 respectively in the previous year. The average duration of appeals rose from 70 to 78 days. The number of cases in Divisional Courts increased from 24 in 1915 to 29. Of these 17 appeals were disposed of the average duration decreasing from 85 to 78 days. Miscellaneous appeals in all courts numbered 261 as against 260 in 1915.

The Chief
Court of
Lower
Burma.

62. The number of suits instituted during the year was 327, or 15 less than in 1915. Suits for movable property fell from 165 to 139, and for immovable rose by 3 to 54. Mortgage-suits fell by 8 to 45, the same number as in 1914. The aggregate value was Rs. 21.71 lakhs as compared with Rs. 66.87 lakhs in 1915 and Rs. 57.83 lakhs in 1914. The number of suits disposed of was 320, against 383 in 1915, and the number pending at the close of the year 266, against 260 twelve months earlier. Of the suits disposed of, 107, or 33.44 per cent. were contested, as against, 184, or 48.04 per cent., in 1915. The average duration of contested cases, *viz.*, 343 days, remained the same as in the previous year, and that of uncontested cases was 207, as against 216 in 1915. Plaintiffs were successful in 74.08 per cent. of the contested cases as against a corresponding figure of 75.5 in the previous year. The number of sales of immovable property was 43, against 37 in 1915, and the total amount realized in execution of decrees was Rs. 6.08 lakhs, as against Rs. 6.53 lakhs. The number of cases disposed of under the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act was 222, as against 243 in 1915, and the number remaining pending at the close of the year 105, as against 110 in 1915. Six cases were instituted on the application of creditors. One hundred and forty-eight debtors were granted discharge, and in 63 cases applications for discharge were dismissed or adjudication orders annulled. The number of regular appeals instituted in the Chief Court was 360, as against 399 in 1915. Of these 130 were against original decrees and 230 against appellate decrees. The number disposed of was 387, as against 619 in 1915. Of the number disposed of, 109 were from original decrees, and 278 from appellate decrees. The number of appeals pending from original and appellate decrees taken together fell from 542 in 1914, to 322 in 1915, to 295 in the year of report. The average duration of first appeals fell from 390 days in 1915 to 315, the lowest figure since 1907, and that of second appeals fell from 347 days to 250, which is the lowest figure since 1910. The decrees of lower courts and of the original side of the Chief Court taken together, were confirmed in 68.47 per cent., reversed in 23.77 per cent., modified in 5.68 per cent., and remanded in 2.06 per cent. of the total number of appeals disposed of. The percentage of confirmation in 1915 was 64.13. The percentages of confirmation in appeals against original and appellate decrees were respectively 60.55 and 71.58 as against 61.93 and 65.01 in 1915. The number of cases before the Chief Court in revision was 261 as compared with 291 in 1915. The number disposed of was 186, and the number pending at the end of the year was 75, as against corresponding figures of 229 and 62 in the previous year. There were 12 appeals before the Privy Council for disposal during the year, including 9 that were pending from the previous year. Six cases were decided during the year.

The Court of
the Judicial
Commissioner,
Upper
Burma.

63. The appellate work in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, consisted of 727 cases (including 345 pending from the previous year), as compared with 845 appeals in 1915. Four hundred and eighty-four appeals were disposed of, as against 500 in 1915, and the pending list at the close of the year consisted of 243 appeals, compared with 345 in 1915. Of the cases decided, the share of work done by the Additional Judge was about 43 per cent. or 206 appeals. The percentage

of confirmation was 63'02, against 63'80 in 1915, and the average duration was 295 days, as compared with 328 days in the previous year. In revisional work the Judicial Commissioner had before him 455 applications for disposal, of which 167 had been pending from the previous year, as compared with 447 and 175 applications, respectively, in 1915. Of this number, 295 applications were disposed of and 100 remained unfinished at the close of the year, as against 280 and 167 respectively in 1915. The percentage of confirmations was 73'22, and the average duration was 208 days, compared with 70'71 and 251 days in the previous year. About 9 per cent., or 28 cases, were disposed of by the Additional Judge. In the last quinquennium, the number of suits instituted in Upper Burma was less than half the number in Lower Burma, yet the number of appeals before the Judicial Commissioner has been about the same as the number before the Chief Court. The number of applications for revision by the High Court has been greater in Upper Burma. This seems to point to the Upper Burman being more litigious than the native of Lower Burma. Many of the cases in Upper Burma are of a petty kind, and before they are decided have cost the litigants more than they can ever hope to realize out of execution of the decree.

CASES FILED
PREVIOUS
YEAR.

64. Six gentlemen were admitted as advocates of the Chief Court, Lower Burma, during the year, one as a first-grade pleader, 8 as second-grade pleaders and 13 as third-grade pleaders. Seventeen first-grade, 119 second-grade and 427 third-grade pleaders renewed their certificates during the year. The rules for admission and qualifications of advocates were amended during the year so as to bring them into line with the revised rules of the Calcutta and Bombay High Courts. The number of advocates' cases dealt with by the Judicial Commissioner, Upper Burma, rose from 113 to 114.

General.

Registration.

65. No alterations of note were made in the working of the Registration Department in 1916. A new rule was added setting out the procedure to be followed by a Registering Officer when he receives notice of revocation of a power of attorney, and consequential amendments were made to the rules thereby affected. An amendment to Direction 39 makes an alteration in the manner of filing fishery bonds.

General.

66. The total number of compulsory registrations affecting immovable property, *viz.*, 74,828 was the highest on record, and is 2,595 in excess of the previous year's figure. The excess is mainly due to a rise in Upper Burma from 9,882 to 12,134. The aggregate value of the instruments registered rose from Rs. 8,12'84 lakhs to Rs. 9,14'75 lakhs, about half of the increment being due to a rise from Rs. 58'24 lakhs to Rs. 1,10'78 lakhs in Upper Burma. Instruments of sale of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards rose from 25,521 to 31,629, and their value from Rs. 3,41'35 lakhs to Rs. 4,83'96 lakhs. The most marked increases were in Rangoon Town, with an aggregate value of some Rs. 99 lakhs, as against Rs. 66 lakhs in 1915, in Pegu with Rs. 45 lakhs as against Rs. 25 lakhs, in Pyapön with Rs. 49 lakhs as against Rs. 20 lakhs, and in Minbu where the total value rose from under half a lakh of rupees to nearly Rs. 23 lakhs, in consequence of some oil-properties changing hands. Instruments of mortgage decreased from 43,409 in 1915 to 39,415 in 1916, there being a fall from 37,142 to 31,527 in Lower Burma and a rise from 6,207 to 7,888 in Upper Burma. The aggregate value fell from Rs. 3,24'75 lakhs to Rs. 3,09'08 lakhs in Lower Burma and rose from Rs. 32'67 lakhs to Rs. 48'95 lakhs in Upper Burma; so that for the whole Province the aggregate value, some Rs. 357 lakhs is practically the same as in the previous year. The rise in Upper Burma is again mainly due to dealings in oil-properties in Minbu. The number of optional registrations affecting immovable property rose from 150, involving a total value of Rs. 3'99 lakhs in 1915, to 164 involving Rs. 5'90 lakhs in 1916. Registrations affecting movable property increased from 8,160 to 8,416, but the aggregate value fell from Rs. 65'11 lakhs to Rs. 55'85 lakhs.

Deeds registered.

Chap. III—
Finance,
Income and
Expenditure.

67. Income derived from registration rose from Rs. 2,44,707 in 1915 to Rs. 2,46,287. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,16,203 as against Rs. 1,15,086 and amounted to 47 per cent. of the total income, the same as in the previous year.

Joint Stock Companies.

68. The registration in company-promoting continued during the year. Only five new joint stock companies, limited by shares, were registered during the year under the Indian Companies Act (VII of 1913) with a total authorized capital of Rs. 92.10 lakhs. Six companies having an aggregate authorized capital of Rs. 37.80 lakhs wound up their business during the year. One hundred and five companies were working at the close of the year with an aggregate authorized capital of Rs. 974 lakhs as against 106 companies with Rs. 917 lakhs twelve months earlier. Of the new companies, all but Rs. 60,000 of the aggregate authorized capital was accounted for by three companies. Of these Messrs. Rowe & Co., an European firm of outfitters, accounted for Rs. 40 lakhs. One of the others was a Burman company to carry on banking and money-lending business in Akyab, and the third a wolfram-mining company. Thirteen companies increased their capital during the year; of these, one company increased its authorized subscribed and paid-up capital, five companies increased their paid-up capital, and seven companies increased both their subscribed and paid-up capital. The total increase of paid-up capital was approximately Rs. 50½ lakhs. Three companies reduced their capital during the year, all in the subscribed and paid-up capital. Five companies established outside British India, filed their papers under section 277 of the Act during the year, bringing the total number of companies registered to 134. One society under Act V of 1912 was registered during the year. The fees realised during the year amounted to Rs. 4,335 as against Rs. 3,773 in the previous year. The cost of the separate establishment was Rs. 864.

Local Boards Administration.

69. There are no Local Boards in Burma. The District Funds in Upper Burma and the District Cess Funds in Lower Burma are administered by the Deputy Commissioners of the Districts to which they belong. Some account of their receipts and expenditure is given in Chapter V of this Report.

Municipal Administration.

Rangoon
Municipality.

70. The ordinary income of the Rangoon Municipality for the year was Rs. 45.48 lakhs, against Rs. 44.19 lakhs in the previous year. The incidence of taxation and of income per head of population rose, from Rs. 11-11-9 and Rs. 15-8-2, respectively, in the previous year, to Rs. 11-14-10 and Rs. 15-15-4 in the year of report. There was no change in the number of Municipal taxes and the only change of rate was the enhancement, which took effect from the 1st January 1917, of the scavenging tax from 6½ to 8½ per cent. in one area to which the sewerage system had been extended. The regular revision of assessments of buildings and lands was again suspended on account of the continuance of the war. The revisions undertaken were in respect of 389 properties including 3 mills or factories, the owners of which submitted objections to the existing assessment. The number of new properties that came under assessment fell considerably, when compared with the previous year, from 1,577 to 445, the lowest figure recorded during the past five years. This fall is due to the curtailment of building operations owing to the high cost of materials and the stringency of the money market. The total number of properties separately assessed to taxation was 16,903. Objections to assessments were made in 769 cases. The assessments were confirmed in 410 cases, reduced in 324, and enhanced in 35. The agreement under which the Port

Trust paid, in lieu of taxes, a contribution of 4 per cent. on its ordinary revenue having expired on the 30th June 1916, a temporary arrangement was made that the Port Trust would pay, by quarterly instalments, Rs. 1,67,000 per annum on account of taxes on its property, until such time as a scheme can be evolved for putting the assessment of Port Trust property on an equitable basis. The Fire Brigade during the year attended 28 fires, the smallest number yet recorded. The estimated damage to property caused by fires was Rs. 1½ lakhs, which is less than the figure for any of the preceding ten years. A single fire accounted for one lakh of rupees of the total estimated damage. There was no change of importance in the lighting arrangements for the town. The Half-Watt lamps of 500 candle power experimentally installed last year were removed and replaced by arc lamps. Four arc lamps were replaced by Half-Watt lamps of 1,000 candle power. In East Rangoon 56 lamps were converted from high to low tension. The number of oil lamps in use was increased to a total of 788. No extensions or renewals to the water mains were made during the year. The new steel main was brought into permanent use in June 1916. To cope with increasing consumption of water during the dry season, the size of the main plungers at the Yegu Pumping station was increased, and this alteration has increased the pumping capacity by 33 per cent. The total quantity of water supplied to the town was 3,982 million gallons, as compared with 3,523 million gallons supplied during the previous year, or an average of about 11 million gallons per diem. In conservancy the principal work undertaken during the year was the altering and renewing of private manholes and connections, preparatory to the paving of back drainage-spaces. New lairs sufficient to accommodate 500 sheep and goats were erected at the slaughter-houses. The Veterinary Officer, while on leave in England, visited some of the best equipped abattoirs there, and alterations to the slaughter-house in accordance with his recommendations will be undertaken as soon as funds permit. It may be remarked that the Veterinary Officer found that the existing arrangements at Rangoon compare very favourably with anything he saw in England. The new pig slaughter-house at Kemmendine was brought into use in August 1916. No asphalt road-construction was undertaken during the year. A portion of the previous year's programme for stone sett paving, which could not be completed owing to the early advent of the monsoon, was carried out in the year of report. A number of roads were reconstructed or repaired with macadam and similar materials. The expenditure on roads was Rs. 4.49 lakhs as against Rs. 9.93 lakhs in the previous year. During the year the draft of a new Rangoon Municipal Bill was considered at five special meetings, and a report embodying the opinions of the Municipal Committee was sent to the Local Government. Amendments were made during the year affecting byelaws relating to back drainage spaces, to the Municipal Election Rules, and to the use of inflammable material in buildings. The revised byelaws passed in the previous year for regulating the sanitary condition of dairies and places where milch cows are kept for profit, were not enforced as under the existing conditions it was impossible to obtain the necessary staff and apparatus. The total number of births registered during the year was 6,045, representing a rate of 19.26 per mille of the estimated population as against corresponding figures of 5.791 and 18.63 for the previous year. The number of deaths, which in the previous year was 8,515 rose to 10,597, the rate per mille rising from 29.03 to 36.13. The rate of infantile mortality was 288 per mille as against 276 in 1915-16. There were 1,921 cases of plague with 1,810 deaths as against 590 cases with 571 deaths in the previous year. Deaths from cholera numbered 73 as against 99 in the previous year. Small-pox was much more prevalent than in the previous year there being 1,023 cases and 343 deaths as against 318 cases and 94 deaths. Most of the cases occurred in the first four months of 1916 and the epidemic was almost entirely confined to the poorest classes of Indians. Deaths from tuberculosis numbered 564 giving a death rate of 1.92 per thousand.

71. The number of minor municipalities was 44, the same as in the previous year. There was no alteration in any municipal boundary. The amount raised by taxation rose from Rs. 17.88 lakhs to Rs. 18.26 lakhs, and the average incidence

Part III—
Facts.
1924.

of taxation from Rs. 2-9-5 to Rs. 2-10-4. The incidence of taxation was highest at Akyab (Rs. 5-1-9), and lowest at Shwegyin (Rs. 0-15-6). The following fresh taxes were imposed: a lighting-tax at Allanmyo-Ywataung, a tax on motor-vehicles at Bassein, and a tax on bullock-carts kept within town limits at Taungdwingyi. A general revision of the system of taxation was completed at Pakókku, where the method of assessment on rental values was substituted for that based on area in the case of the house-tax, and for assessment at fixed rates in the case of the scavenging and latrine taxes. The rates for bullock-carts and hand-carts were also revised. Systematic revaluation of property was carried out at Ma-ubin and Moulmein, while most of the taxes are assessed on the basis of annual rental values, and in the latter town the rate of the tax on motor-vehicles was enhanced. The number of members of Municipal Committees increased by 5 to 565 of whom 179 were *ex-officio*, 289 nominated, and 97 elected members. Out of the total 565, 200 were officials, and 365 non-officials, while there were 131 Europeans and 434 Burmans, Indians and other Asiatics. During the year the Local Government had under consideration the question of entrusting the administration of selected municipalities to non-official committees. Elected members sat on ten committees only as in the previous year, although the elective system is in force in 12 municipalities. General elections were held in five municipalities—Akyab, Bassein, Insein, Pegu and Toungoo. In two of those towns there was no contest, and in one only one seat was contested, which seems to indicate a lack of interest on the part of rate-payers. There was a marked improvement in the general health of many of the municipalities. Twenty-five recorded a decreased mortality and only fifteen recorded an increase. The improvement in the health of the municipalities was most marked in the Upper Burma Municipalities, only two of which, Taungdwingyi and Yamethin, had an increased mortality. In the former town there was an abnormally high infantile death-rate, while in the latter there was a serious outbreak of plague. Pyinmana also suffered from an epidemic of plague. There was a marked absence of epidemics in most of the other municipalities in Upper Burma, though Mandalay, Bhamo and Myingyan recorded a considerable number of deaths from plague. In Mandalay deaths from plague dropped from 1,933 to 54, while cholera, which caused 736 deaths in the preceding year, practically disappeared. The health of the town improved in other respects also and the death-rate declined from 72·46 to 42·30 per mille. In about half of the total number of municipalities in Lower Burma there was a decreased mortality. Plague was fairly general, and there were serious epidemics at Bassein, Prome, Ngathainggyaung, Toungoo, Paungdè and Thônzè. At Bassein, in addition to the plague, there was an outbreak of cholera, which carried off 79 persons. Kyaiklat also suffered from epidemics of both these diseases. Cholera was much less prevalent generally than in the preceding year and was confined to Lower Burma except for a few isolated cases. There were outbreaks of small-pox, none of them serious, in sixteen municipalities. Beri-beri was more severe in Akyab than in the previous year. The two recurring grants of six lakhs of rupees for urban sanitary improvements, together with refunds of unutilized grants of previous years amounting to Rs. 2·53 lakhs, were fully allotted to the various municipalities and towns. The schemes for which these grants were made are noticed in Chapter VI of this Report. There was a rise from Rs. 2·70 lakhs to Rs. 2·88 lakhs in expenditure on public safety. The chief contributors to the increase were the Kyaiklat Municipality, which purchased a fire-engine and accessories at a cost of Rs. 5,615, and the Pegu and Allanmyo-Ywataung Municipalities, which spent respectively Rs. 3,751 and Rs. 3,584 more than in the previous year on street lighting. A destructive fire occurred in a cotton-mill at Myingyan, the damage caused being estimated at about a lakh of rupees. Considerable damage was caused by fire at Akyab, Bassein, and Mandalay. The total expenditure on water-supply amounted to Rs. 4·16 lakhs, or Rs. 15,755 less than the amount incurred in the previous year. The water-distribution scheme at Letpadan, which was to have been completed during the year, had to be postponed on account of the high prices of materials. Total capital outlay amounted to Rs. 3·49 lakhs, of which a sum of Rs. 2·39 lakhs was spent on the Pegu water-supply scheme alone. Although the dam for collecting the water in connection

with this scheme has been completed, some difficulty is being experienced in procuring the pipes necessary for distribution. A similar difficulty stopped the progress of the Yamethin water-supply scheme on which a sum of Rs. 45,058 has been expended. Estimates are to be framed for schemes which will, it is hoped, finally solve the water problem at Bassein and Pakokku. A tube well was sunk at Paungdè at considerable expense, but water was not found even at a depth of 710 feet. A further grant has been made for sinking another well. Similar experiments at Taungdwingyi and Pyinmana also failed. At Myingyan however tube wells have been successfully sunk, and are said to give an abundant supply of potable water. At Thônzè the maintenance of the water-supply has involved a loss of Rs. 5,000 annually to the Municipal Fund, owing to the entirely inadequate and expensive distribution system. At Syriam, Messrs. The Burma Oil Company, Limited, generously lent their drilling plant free of charge and supplied at pre-war rates the length of piping required for an artesian well. Total expenditure on drainage was Rs. 1·81 lakhs, of which Rs. 1·60 lakhs represented capital outlay and Rs. 21,428 charges on account of establishment, repairs, etc., against Rs. 91,486 and Rs. 38,510, respectively, in the previous year. The bulk of the capital outlay was incurred at Akyab, Toungoo, and Mandalay. At Akyab, drains in two areas were almost completed, bringing the length of new drains up to 26,124 running feet. The drainage scheme has, however, proved more expensive than was originally estimated, and work on the remaining areas has been suspended while proposals for financing the scheme are under consideration. At Toungoo, the second section of the drainage scheme is in hand, the first section having been completed. The Shwedung-tada drainage scheme at Moulmein, which had been in abeyance owing to the difficulty of obtaining an estimate of its cost, has now been definitely abandoned. The expenditure on conservancy advanced slightly from Rs. 6·15 lakhs to Rs. 8·29 lakhs. The conservancy arrangements in most towns are still defective and inadequate, and the primitive system of cess-pit latrines is not uncommon. Several committees are experimenting with the aerobic-filter type for public latrines. Existing conservancy methods are in many cases uneconomical, but the introduction of new systems is necessarily costly, and radical improvements can rarely be financed by municipalities from their own resources. The most important schemes reported during the year were made possible by outside help. Thus, at Syriam, Messrs. The Burma Oil Company, Limited, are providing septic-tank latrine accommodation for 2,000 coolies who at present reside in the town, while Provincial grants amounting to Rs. 17,000 and Rs. 37,593, respectively, were given towards conservancy schemes at Mandalay and Tavoy. Charges on account of health officers and sanitary inspectors remained almost stationary. Expenditure on hospitals and dispensaries amounted to Rs. 7·16 lakhs as compared with Rs. 6·09 lakhs in the previous year. The increase was most marked in the municipalities of Pegu, Toungoo and Tavoy, all of which received Government grants, the first two for the construction of new hospitals, and the third for the construction of a special ward of 20 beds to accommodate patients from the mines. At Akyab and Myingyan the expenditure showed an increase of over Rs. 7,000. Expenditure on markets and slaughter-houses declined from Rs. 4·98 lakhs to Rs. 3·36 lakhs. In the previous year the total was swollen by the construction and the extension of bazaars at Sandoway, Paungdè, and Wakama. This year the only important increase under this head was at Tavoy where certain sanitary improvements to the bazaar were carried out. At Mandalay, a range of godowns was constructed at a cost of over Rs. 33,000, but most other municipalities found the cost of materials for constructing new buildings prohibitive. Expenditure on public works fell from Rs. 8·98 lakhs to Rs. 8·54 lakhs. As in the previous year, the major portion of the expenditure (Rs. 6,19,777) was on roads. Four municipalities, Kyaukpyu, Shwegyin, Shwebo and Mònywa, spent less than Rs. 1,000 under this latter head. Expenditure on public instruction totalled Rs. 2·09 lakhs against Rs. 2·14 lakhs last year. In accordance with a resolution passed at a conference held on the 31st July 1916, the administration of certain branches of Vernacular education has been entrusted to Divisional Boards, and expenditure on Vernacular education is to be borne by

Case III—
Faction
work.

local funds, while expenditure on Anglo-Vernacular education will be met from the Provincial Budget. Municipalities in Upper Burma (with the exception of Mandalay) have not in the past been called upon to contribute towards education, and it has been decided therefore to effect the transfer of the cost of Vernacular education gradually in these municipalities, with effect from 1918-19. The minimum percentages of annual municipal assignments to the respective school funds have been fixed under section 73 of the Burma Municipal Act so as to complete the transfer by 1922-23. The chief defects brought to notice by the annual audit of the accounts of municipalities were delay in the preparation of assessment rolls and in the collection of taxes, irregular maintenance of stock-books, double payments, and failure to take proper action on audit instructions. Embezzlements by the collecting staff were discovered at Moulmein, Gyobingauk and Minhla. They were rendered possible by neglect of the rules for the collection of taxes.

There were 20 notified areas as in the previous year. The total income, excluding opening balances amounting to Rs. 3.49 lakhs and extraordinary receipts amounting to Rs. 15,972, was Rs. 9.84 lakhs as compared with Rs. 8.29 lakhs in the previous year. The incidence of taxation and of income rose from Rs. 2-4-5 and Rs. 7-12-8, to Rs. 2-5-8 and Rs. 8-15-6, respectively. The incidence of taxation in Maymyo rose from Rs. 8-8-6 to Rs. 9-0-1, a figure higher than that of any municipality (except Rangoon) or any other notified area. Eleven Town Funds closed with balances exceeding Rs. 10,000, and the balances of five of the funds were larger than the expenditure during the year. On the other hand, the notified area of Danubyu went to the other extreme and closed with a balance of Rs. 17-3-5 only, thereby failing to maintain the prescribed minimum. Nearly one-third of the total expenditure of this Town Fund was under "Hospitals and Dispensaries." In the case of several notified areas the explanation of the low expenditure is to be found in the postponement, till materials are cheaper, of projects for which funds have been accumulated but which are not of great urgency. The Kalaw water-supply scheme was completed during the year and proved completely successful. A tube-well was sunk at Minhla and is reported to yield a plentiful supply of water. Attempts to sink tube-wells at Zigôn and Meiktila, however, were unsuccessful. Eight towns, Thônghwa, Nyaunglebin, Zigôn, Minhla, Shwedaung, Danubyu, Yenangyaung, and Pyawbwè, suffered from plague, while at Kyônpyaw there were outbreaks both of plague and cholera. The Town Committee of Maymyo, in the hope of solving the difficult problem of a pure milk supply, showed much enterprise in starting an experimental dairy farm, which is said to be paying its way.

Marine.

72. The improvements to the landings at the Alguada Reef Light-house were nearly completed and those to the China Bakir Light-house completed. The light-ship "Danidaw" stationed at the Baragua Flats and the "Kalagauk" at the Krishna Shoal were brought in turn to Rangoon for the annual overhaul, being replaced during their absence by the relief vessel "Martaban." The light on the "Kemmedine" stationed at the Spit was shut down from March 1917. The China Bakir light was altered to a flashing white light, burning paraffin instead of cocoanut oil as hitherto, and was exhibited on the 7th December 1916. During the alteration the "Martaban" was moored off the edge of the China Bakir Flats, 2 miles due east of the light-house, exhibiting a temporary light showing a white flash every forty seconds. The R.I.M.S. "Mayo" was the station vessel during the year and carried out all reliefs in connection with light-houses and light-ships. Owing to the irregular steamer service to Akyab, advantage was taken of her visits to that port to ship Public Works Department stores, specie, etc. She was absent from the station for two periods performing services required by the Government of India in the Military Department. There were no deaths at any of the light-houses and the health of the light-keepers, both European and Indian, and of the crews of the light-ships, was good, except at China Bakir and measures were taken to relieve

the crew there every month. The total expenditure on light-houses and light-ships decreased from Rs. 266 lakhs to Rs. 245 lakhs, repairs to the four light-vessels costing Rs. 32,607 less, while the expenditure on repairs to light-houses by the Public Works Department fell by Rs. 10,793. On the other hand expenditure on oil increased by Rs. 8,793 and that on blue light composition by Rs. 9,482. The rate at which coast-light dues are leviable under the Burma Coast-lights Act having been raised from one anna and one pie to one anna and three pies per ton of burden with effect from the 1st May 1916, the receipts from coast-light dues rose slightly from Rs. 336 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 372 lakhs in the year of report. These amounts do not include the annual contribution of Rs. 4,200 paid by the Port Commissioners, Rangoon, towards the Spit light-vessel. The annual *pro forma* account of the Burma coast-light dues showed a loss of Rs. 1,15,855 on the year's working as against a loss of Rs. 1,56,841 in the previous year.

CHAP. III.—
FACILITIES.

73. The revenue accounts of the Commissioners of the Port of Rangoon for the year 1916-17 showed a surplus of Rs. 514 lakhs. The receipts were Rs. 4513 lakhs, as against Rs. 4537 lakhs in the previous year, while expenditure rose slightly from Rs. 3985 lakhs to Rs. 3999 lakhs. Of the surplus Rs. 2 lakhs were transferred to the depreciation and replacement, and fire and marine funds, leaving a balance of Rs. 314 lakhs to be carried forward to the nett revenue account. At the close of the year the capital debt of the Port amounted to Rs. 299 lakhs. Securities which cost Rs. 5189 lakhs are held at the credit of the sinking fund. Expenditure on capital account during the year fell to Rs. 2,443. A special reserve fund was created during the year to meet the depreciation in the value of securities held on account of the three reserve funds. A sum of one lakh of rupees was transferred to this special reserve fund, and Rs. 15 lakhs was added to the revenue reserve fund, Rs. 124 lakhs to the fire and marine insurance fund, and Rs. 206 lakhs to the depreciation and replacement fund. At the close of the year the face value of the securities held by the three reserve funds and the special reserve fund was Rs. 367 lakhs. The Customs returns show that 84.18 per cent. of the foreign and coasting trade of the Province passed through Rangoon. Of the imports 55.6 per cent. were landed on the Commissioners' premises and 44.4 per cent. landed on private premises or discharged into inland vessels to be river-borne. Of the exports 16.5 per cent. were shipped from the Commissioners' premises. The inland river-borne trade over the Commissioners' premises amounted to 720,309 tons as against 717,655 tons in 1915-16 and 663,097 tons in 1914-15. The total revenue of the traffic department was Rs. 2226 lakhs a decrease of Rs. 52,595 on the figures for the previous year and the expenditure, exclusive of capital expenditure was Rs. 85 lakhs as against Rs. 875 lakhs in the previous year. The total expenditure of the engineering department was Rs. 52 lakhs. Only minor new works and the usual maintenance and repair works were undertaken. The greatest sinkage along the top of the river wall in the seven months ending January 31st was 1½ inches and the average ¼ inch. There has been a slight settlement of the apron in two places. It is estimated that nearly a mill on and a half tons of silt were deposited in the embayment behind the wall during the year. In places the silt is two feet higher than the top of the wall, or about a foot below the average high water mark, and thick grass and shrubs are growing over a great part of the area. Excluding Government vessels, 996 steamers with a total net registered tonnage of 2,064,091 entered the port, a decrease of 95 steamers and 109,448 tons as compared with the previous year, and 1,005 vessels with a total registered tonnage of 2,081,444 left the port. Dredging operations were successful and a channel with a minimum depth of 14 feet of water was maintained through the dry season. During the year 64 vessels had, owing to insufficient water, to complete their loading below the Hastings, and 11 incoming vessels being unable, for the same reason, to enter, were detained below the Hastings. Complete new surveys of the river bed from the harbour beacons, Syriam, to the Hmawun beacon, and from Elephant Point to Fairway buoy were completed. Eleven members of the staff proceeded on war service during the year.

Port Administration
Rangoon.

Cash, 111—
Receipts—
from
Pilot Service
Rangoon.

74. The Rangoon Pilot Fund opened with a balance of Rs. 13,880, the receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 2,91,680 and the payments to Rs. 3,14,340, showing a deficit balance of Rs. 8,980. The usual annual contribution of Rs. 21,000 to the vessels' depreciation fund was again not paid, and that fund increased only from Rs. 2'04 lakhs to Rs. 2'11 lakhs. Excluding miscellaneous receipts amounting to Rs. 3,3505, the gross pilotage fees decreased from Rs. 3'07 lakhs to Rs. 2'86 lakhs, and the payments to pilots from Rs. 2'26 lakhs to Rs. 2'20 lakhs. The pilot service was well maintained during the year, only two cases of delay being reported, one for twelve hours which was due to the arrival of a vessel before the advised date, and the other for five hours and forty minutes. The Local Government sanctioned the seconding of the commander of the pilot brig, his pay being calculated on the pay of his grade *plus* a monthly command allowance. The pilots on duty as harbour-masters at Basra, who did not receive any allowances from the Port Commissioners, were seconded. This procedure enabled the Commissioners to grant sub. *pro tem.* promotions in the various grades. A scheme for the improvement of the finances of the pilot fund was under consideration by the Local Government but at the end of the year it had not been approved.

Minor ports.

75. Excluding the Rangoon Port Trust, there are six ports in the Province, viz. Akyab, Kyaukpnyu, Bassein, Moulmein, Mergui and Tavoy, in which Port Funds are maintained. The total receipts and expenditure of these funds were Rs. 4'23 lakhs and Rs. 4'32 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 4'09 lakhs and Rs. 4'24 lakhs respectively in the previous year. The increase in receipts occurred in Moulmein, Akyab, and Tavoy. The last-named fund was, however, not in a position to pay during the year the full Public Works Department expenditure incurred on Port Fund works and the Local Government had to help it with a contribution. Expenditure increased in Bassein, Tavoy, and Kyaukpnyu, the increases in the two former being noticeable. Expenditure exceeded receipts in the Port Funds of Akyab and Kyaukpnyu, which closed with smaller balances than in 1915-16. Although the closing balance of the Moulmein Port Fund was greater by Rs. 12,639 than in the previous year, still the state of the finances of the fund continued to be unsatisfactory and the sanction of the Government of India was obtained to the extension of the period of repayment of the loan of Rs. 2 lakhs granted in 1908 from ten to fifteen years. The annual instalments and interest which fell due on the 1st April 1915, 1st April 1916, and 1st April 1917, aggregating Rs. 26,909, were however paid by the fund in June 1917. As the Tavoy Port Fund was unable to pay the annual instalment on the loan of Rs. 65,000 in addition to carrying out urgently needed improvements to the port, the Government of India sanctioned the extension from ten to fifteen years of the term of the loan, and the postponement till the 24th February 1919 of the payment of annual instalments of principal. Interest due on the loan up to the 24th February 1917 has been paid. At the end of the year the Moulmein and Tavoy Port Funds owed the Local Government Rs. 70,813 and Rs. 68,336 respectively. Outside Rangoon there are pilot funds at Akyab, Bassein and Moulmein. These funds derive their income from pilotage fees and the expenditure consists mainly of cost of maintenance of pilot vessels and payments to pilots. The aggregate receipts of the three pilot funds decreased slightly from Rs. 1'13 lakhs to Rs. 1'11 lakhs; the expenditure rose at Akyab and Moulmein but fell at Bassein; and in each case the closing balance showed a decrease. Port Officers appointed by Government and assisted by advisory boards continued to manage the ports of Akyab, Bassein and Moulmein. During the year it was decided to exclude aliens other than the subjects of any State in India from these boards and their constitution was modified so that four of the seven members shall be British subjects or subjects of any State in India. They will be as far as possible representative of the various mercantile interests, and at least one of them will be a Burman or an Indian.

Commercial
traffic;
shipping.

76. The number of vessels entering ports in Burma increased further from 4,571 in 1915-16 to 6,095, but their aggregate tonnage again fell from 2,917,515 tons to 2,708,301 tons. Similarly while the number of vessels clearing increased from 4,244 to 5,631 the tonnage fell from 2,949,902 tons to 2,707,365 tons. The total

number of entries of vessels engaged in the foreign trade was 565 with an average tonnage of 1,573 tons, as compared with 491 vessels with an average tonnage of 2,244 tons in the previous year. The clearances were 679 vessels with an average tonnage of 1,405 tons, as against 460 vessels with an average tonnage of 1,995 tons. Of these sailing ships rose from 27 to 224, but the average tonnage declined from 202 tons to 121 tons. The entries into Rangoon from foreign ports were 337 vessels with a tonnage of 732,645 tons, as against 312 vessels with a tonnage of 808,966 tons, and the clearances 364 with a tonnage of 837,205 tons, as against 297 with a tonnage of 756,850 tons. The number of sailing ships clearing from the port fell from 5 with a tonnage of 8,348 tons, to 2 with a tonnage of 3,190 tons. The total number of vessels which entered in the coasting trade of the Province was 5,530 aggregating 1,819,491 tons, as against 4,150 vessels aggregating 1,972,898 tons and 4,952 vessels of 1,753,224 tons cleared as against 3,784 vessels of 2,032,165 tons in the preceding year. The number of entries of sailing craft increased from 2,674 in 1915-16 to 4,425 in the year of report, and the tonnage from 77,835 tons to 123,361 tons. Clearances of sailing craft rose from 2,289 to 3,855 and the tonnage from 70,669 tons to 107,974 tons. The considerable decline in the number of both entrances and clearances of steamers observed in the previous year continued in the year of report, 1,105 steamers entering with a tonnage of 1,696,130 tons, and 1,097 clearing with a tonnage of 1,645,250 tons, as against entrances of 1,476 steamers with a tonnage of 1,895,063 tons and clearances of 1,495 steamers with a tonnage of 1,961,496 tons in 1915-16. Of the vessels engaged in the coasting trade 655 steamers with a tonnage of 1,321,028 tons entered Rangoon, as compared with 782 steamers with a tonnage of 1,371,434 tons in the previous year, and 637 steamers with a tonnage of 1,236,247 tons cleared, as against 799 steamers with a tonnage of 1,427,808 tons in 1915-16, while 166 sailing ships with a tonnage of 8,541 tons entered as against 112 with a tonnage of 7,916 tons, and 166 with a tonnage of 8,951 tons cleared, as against 118 with a tonnage of 8,521 tons in the previous year.

Of the 565 steam and sailing vessels that entered the ports of the Province from foreign ports during the year, 387 or 68 per cent. flew British colours. Of the 178 vessels flying foreign colours 55 were Dutch, 54 Japanese, 49 Norwegian, 6 Chinese, 3 Russian, 2 Swedish, 2 American, one each French, Greek, Italian, and Spanish, and 3 foreign native craft. In the previous year of the 431 vessels entering 325 or 77 per cent. flew British colours, and of the 96 flying foreign colours 40 were Japanese, 32 Norwegian, 19 Dutch, 3 Swedish and 2 Chinese. The number of arrivals of foreign vessels thus increased by 85 per cent., while the increases so far as the Dutch, Norwegian and Japanese colours are concerned were 189, 53 and 35 per cent. respectively. In the coasting trade 866 vessels, as against 1,271 in the previous year, flew British colours, and 98 as against 75 flew foreign colours. The number of native craft rose from 2,000 to 3,428. In the foreign trade of Rangoon 184 vessels entered under British colours as against 223, and 153 under foreign colours as against 89 in 1915-16. Of the latter 52 were Dutch as against 18, 49 Japanese as against 37, 36 Norwegian as against 32, 6 Chinese as against 2, and 3 Russian, 2 American and one each French, Spanish, Swedish, Greek and Italian, against none in the previous year. In the coasting trade of Rangoon 699 British vessels, including 166 native craft, and 122 foreign vessels, entered, as against 807 British including 109 native craft, and 87 foreign vessels in 1915-16. The foreign comprised 59 Dutch as against 29, 47 Japanese as against 54, 9 Norwegian as against 2, 4 Russian as against none, 2 Swedish as against 1, 1 American as against none and no Danish as against 1 in the previous year.

77. During the year there were 9 accidents to shipping in the port of Rangoon as compared with 13 in the previous year. None was serious while only four occurred while the vessel was in charge of a pilot or assistant harbour master. It was not found necessary to take action against any of the officers concerned. A special court of enquiry was constituted at Rangoon under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act to investigate the cause of the stranding and total loss of the

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Tues.

Commercial
marine
vessels and
equipment

Case III—
Pun-
ton.

S.S. "Zoroastrian" on the 29th September 1916 in Nga Yot Bay, about 38 miles to the north of the entrance to the Bassein River. The court held that the stranding was due to an abnormal north-easterly current following on a cyclone, that the Captain was not guilty of negligence, but that the second officer, by not keeping a proper look-out, very materially contributed to the stranding, and recommended that his certificate be suspended for nine months. Shortly after the enquiry was completed the second officer met with an accident, being knocked down by a motor-car and having both his legs fractured above the knees. In these circumstances and in view of the fact that the court did not consider itself justified in suspending the certificate, the Lieutenant-Governor did not consider that the certificate should be suspended.

Government
steamers
and
launches.

78. The Royal Indian Marine vessel, "Sladen" was laid up in Rangoon, to be utilized for service as examination ship, until February 1917, when she was taken for that purpose. The "Bhamo" carried by river about 2,600 troops and followers, besides women and children, convicts, transport animals, ammunition, specie, and 2,100 tons of stores. The total earnings fell from Rs. 2.19 lakhs to Rs. 34,388. Three steam-launches and 8 motor-launches were added to the Government flotilla during the year. The Government of India during the year impressed 1 steam-launch, 2 motor-launches, 1 steam barge, 2 dredgers, 2 flats and 3 terminal pontoons for service in Mesopotamia in addition to the 6 steam-launches, 1 steam-cutter, and 1 dredger and terminal pontoon impressed in the previous year. One motor-launch, being unserviceable, was sold. At the close of the year there were, in Upper and Lower Burma, 90 steam-launches, 2 steam barges, 21 motor-launches, 13 house-boats, 11 flats, 7 barges, 1 water-boat, 4 light-ships, 3 dredgers, 2 buoy-vessels, 2 mooring-boats, 3 cargo-boats, 1 pony-boat, and 1 rock-smasher. There were also 2 steam-launches under hire to Government during the whole of the year, and 1 motor-launch from September onwards. During part of the year 2 launches were taken away from the Districts to which they belonged for military patrol between the Hastings shoal and the mouth of the Rangoon River. The total earnings of Government vessels for the year amounted to Rs. 7.06 lakhs as against Rs. 6.52 lakhs in the previous year. The Police, Telegraph, Customs and other boats in the various Districts were in good condition and fully employed. One cutter of the Light-house Subdivision was swamped off Alguada Reef in May 1916. Eleven launches were docked at the patent slip in Mandalay. The wood and coal depôts continued to supply requirements and the arrangements carried out by the Forest Department for the supply of wood fuel were satisfactory. The value of the stores received in the store godowns at Rangoon, Mandalay and Bassein was Rs. 1.7 lakhs, and the value of stores issued Rs. 2.01 lakhs. The outturn of work at the Marine Workshop, Mandalay, was valued at Rs. 68,088 as against Rs. 66,093 in the previous year. The cost of repairs to vessels and works carried out at the Government workshop, Rangoon, amounted to Rs. 5.95 lakhs as against Rs. 3 lakhs in the previous year, the increase of Rs. 2.95 lakhs being due to repairs to a number of privately-owned launches employed on military duty, His Majesty's vessels patrolling the Bay of Bengal, to the fitting-up of vessels for Mesopotamia and also to work done in connection with the defence of Rangoon.

Marine
works and
surveys.

79. The suction dredger "Cormorant" was requisitioned by Government and despatched to Basra in May 1916. After her departure the Monkey Point channel showed signs of deterioration but opened up to the normal depth during the rainy season. In the dry season, however, the channel again commenced to silt up rapidly and it was decided to use the dredger "Pelican" to drag the channel during the ebb tides. This proved successful, as the channel gradually improved and a minimum depth of 14 feet of water was maintained through the dry season. The dredger "Frederick Fryer" was hired from Government and commenced dredging operations on the western approach to the Danidaw reach, but the apparent results did not come up to expectation. The paddle-steamer "Firefly" when not on other duty, was also employed towing a drag over this locality during the ebb tides. Every possible endeavour was made

to maintain a good depth of water in these channels during the absence of the "Cormorant," and with a fair measure of success. During the year however 64 vessels had, owing to insufficient water, to complete their loading below the Hastings, as compared with 33 in the previous year. Eleven vessels on arrival could not enter the harbour owing to insufficient water and were detained below the Hastings, as against 2 in 1915-'6. The river bed in general remained normal throughout the year with the exception of Kamakasit snoul, which remains in a disturbed state but shows an improvement on last year's condition. The dredger "Hastings" dredged 83,600 tons during the year at the entrance to the Kanaungto Creek. Complete new surveys of the river bed from the harbour beacons, Syriam, to the Hmawun beacon, and from Elephant Point to Fairway buoy, were taken in hand and completed. The area was sounded, re-coastlined, all shore detail put in and corrected up to date, and the sheets newly plotted. Harbour works included the construction of a wharf at Pyapōn, the extension of and improvements to the Naukle wharf at Mergui, the completion of a screw pile jetty at Kangyidaung in the Bassein District, and the construction of landing stages at Thayagon and Thayaukmyaik in the Myaungmya District. Considerable progress was made on the construction of a jetty at Andrew Bay in the Sandoway District, and some piles were screwed and braced for the new landing stage at Pauktaw in the Akyab District. In the Tavoy District materials were collected for the extension of the landing stage at Kamyawkin, while the forwarding godown at Kyetsabyin jetty at Tavoy was extended.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

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Agriculture.

Occupied
and culti-
vated areas.

80. The occupied area of the Province in 1916-17 was 18,352,312 acres, the increase (116,977 acres) being slightly less than that of the previous year. The fallowed area, 3,937,786 acres, of which a little over one-sixth is in Lower Burma, was nearly 5 per cent. less than in 1915-16 and in all represents 21 per cent. of the occupied area. The cultivated area increased by 2 per cent. to 14,414,526 acres and the matured area by 549,231 acres or 4 per cent. to 13,744,966 acres. The gross cropped area, that is the cultivated area *plus* the area cropped more than once, expanded by 247,917 acres. The area cropped more than once has gone up by 53,605 acres to 626,553 acres, the most striking increase being of 18,319 acres in Pakōkku. Good late rains always stimulate second cropping on fields grown with early sessamum. The figures for the cultivated area, the gross cropped area, and for the matured area, are all higher than the similar figures for the Province in any previous year.

In the principal Lower Burma Districts, in which rice is the main crop, there was a total increase of 112,817 acres in the occupied area. While all the important Districts report an increase, the Irrawaddy Division was the outstanding contributor with a total increase of over 50,000 acres, largely due to revision of areas as a result of resurveys in Bassein and Myaungmya. Steady extension of cultivation was the cause of a notable increase in Pegu, while in Hanthawaddy the colonisation area of Kadōnbaw was responsible for an increase of 4,000 acres. The

failed area showed no important increase except in the precarious flooded tracts of the Bhamo District. In Hanthawaddy the cultivators' fears of floods between the Twante Canal and the Panblaing River, was responsible for an increase of following there. The area on which crops failed to mature was less by 83,143 acres than the similar area in the previous year. The decrease was especially noteworthy in Iloasin, Hanthawaddy and Ma-ubin. In Upper Burma the variation in the occupied area was negligible, but the matured area rose from 4,362,869 to 4,717,537 acres while the non-matured area fell from 690,671 to 572,168 acres. The fallowed area fell by 121,909 acres, there being a decrease in all the Districts except Shwebo, Thayetmyo and Katha. The cultivated area increased by 205,174 acres, there being a slight decrease in three Districts and a fairly evenly distributed rise in the others. The failed area was less by 130,064 acres than in the previous year. Only three Districts showed an increase in the failed area, the largest increase being in Sagaing with a total failed area of 85,737 acres. Shwebo was the District with the largest area, 114,015 acres, being less by 2,742 acres than the failed area in 1915-16. The activity of new settlers in the Namayn valley in the Myitkyina District, Gurkha settlers near Myitkyina and Shan-Chinese in Bhamo gives ground for hopes of considerable expansion in the north.

The area under rice was 10,569,821 acres, being 164,346 acres in excess over the corresponding area in 1915-16. The area under wheat was 47,580 acres. The fact that the area under this crop has doubled since 1913-14 points to a growing belief in its possibilities. In the year of report the area increased by 6,356 acres, two-thirds of which were in the Lower Chindwin District. Minbu, which grows the best wheat in the Province, is reported to contain little suitable soil in unirrigated areas. Experiments on a small scale in Tharrawaddy and Amherst may ultimately prove important. The area under millet, which has been declining since 1908-09 principally as a result of damage done by the *pwinay* parasite (*Striga lutea*), but also in part owing to economic causes, shows a slight recovery, the area under red millet being up by 10,705 acres to 462,880 acres, and that under white millet by 19,388 acres to 203,257 acres. The cultivation of red millet on a small scale in Minbu and Henzada is noted as having begun. There was practically no change in the area under early *sessamum*. The area under late *sessamum* rose by 17,765 acres to 361,242 acres. Groundnut did not recover from the set-back it received last year and the area cultivated is almost the same. High prices have continued to stimulate the expansion of the bean crop which has risen from 522,671 acres in 1914-15 to 662,869 acres in 1916-17. White beans, principally the small variety known as *pebyugale*, for which in the previous year prices ruled high, replaced red beans to a considerable extent. Good prices have helped the recovery in cotton but the increase in area of 26,000 acres to 22,401 acres has by no means brought back the figures to the level of former years. The tobacco area, which fluctuates mainly according to the rise of the river, increased by over 5,000 acres. Chillies and onions also have risen by 14,000 and 5,000 acres respectively, on account of steady demand and good prices. Sugar-cane shows a little improvement especially in Yamethin, and this will doubtless be maintained when a sugar-factory, at present in process of construction at Kyidaunggan in that District, begins working. The area under rubber, 59,257 acres against 57,843 acres last year, shows hardly any expansion.

81. In the irrigated area the season was marked by the absence of serious floods and was on the whole distinctly more favourable than in either of the two previous years. In most Districts the rainfall was timely but there was a scarcity of water in Shwebo and Mandalay at the beginning of the season. In Lower Burma the irrigated area is small except in Toungoo and Prome and there was little variation in the figures except in Toungoo, where there was an increase of 27,295 acres, due to more accurate statistics under the new settlement. In Upper Burma, which has five-sixths of the irrigated area, there was no important decrease in the cropped area in any District, while large increases were recorded in Meiktila, Yamethin and Minbu. The irrigable area rose by 58,343 acres to 1,691,674 acres and the gross irrigated area, which includes 31,459 acres cropped more than once has risen by 117,168 acres to 1,304,403 acres. Rice is the

Crop. 1916-17.
Production and
Distribution.

CHAP. IV.—
PROVINCE
AND
DISTRICTS.

principal irrigated crop, with a gross area of nearly 1,242,000 acres, other crops, mainly sessamum, beans and peas, being responsible for less than 63,000 acres. No new works of importance were opened during the year, but many small works have been improved and extended and the number of wells used for the irrigation of crops like onions shows a steady increase. As regards further development, it is hoped that in Shwabo water will be available in 1918 for a limited area from the Yo-u Canal on which work is now proceeding. In Yamethin, gauge-readings for an irrigation scheme at Nyaunggaing have been reported favourable, and in the same District a proposed work at Kabagyi, which would affect a considerable area, has been inspected and favourably reported on.

The Agricultural
Department.

82. There was no change in the superior staff of the Agricultural Department during the year. The sanctioned appointments of third Deputy Director and of Agricultural Botanist remained vacant. Five more Agricultural Assistants were recruited during the year as well as a District Agriculturist to replace one who had resigned. The five new Agricultural Assistants entered on their training at Hmawbi. At the close of the year four of them went to the Agricultural College at Poona where they will undergo a three years' course in scientific agriculture. The fifth who had already passed a year at Poona was transferred to the experimental farm at Tatkon, along with the Assistant recruited in 1915-16, for instruction in the crops of the dry zone. It was found necessary to extend the period of instruction for District Agriculturists in Upper Burma from one year to eighteen months. In Lower Burma two Agriculturists who had completed their training were sent out to Districts. In the Northern Circle both those under instruction and those already appointed were taught by the Assistant Entomologist the more important insect pests and means of combating them. A Temporary Engineer was transferred from the Public Works Department and appointed Agricultural Engineer tentatively for one year. Nine cultivators nominated by co-operative societies were shown at Hmawbi, Mandalay or Tatkon the methods and implements in use on the farms and how a crop should be grown from pure seed with least risk of contamination. During their training they received stipends aggregating Rs. 917.

The total cost of the department for the year amounted to Rs. 2,49,204 and receipts amounted to Rs. 24,733.

Agricultural
research.

83. Investigations to determine the most suitable varieties of the staple crops of the Province were continued during the year. Improved strains of a type of *apasein* paddy, which has been multiplied for distribution in Lower Burma, were submitted to the judgment of the Chamber of Commerce, along with several new selections. Four, one of which has the additional merit of being a heavy-yielding strain, were pronounced well suited for milling for shipment to Europe, and these will be grown for issue as seed. There are now over five hundred types of paddy under examination at Hmawbi. In particular, hybrids raised from the crossing of the Burmese *letymasin* variety with an imported Java plant are being investigated in the hope of finding a quick-growing strain suitable for the higher lands which do not retain water well. In Upper Burma two short-lived types of Japanese paddy are being tried for the same purpose. Investigations into the *pwinbyu* pest (*Striga lutes*) of millet were persevered with, and an experiment showed that a second crop, sown after the first crop has been deliberately allowed to develop as much *pwinbyu* as possible and been cut down before the *pwinbyu* has seeded, will yield from a quarter to a half of the normal yield of fodder, whereas if the first crop is left to grow it is almost all killed by the parasite. Little success attended the experimental cultivation of several Indian and American varieties of millet on the Mandalay farm. Over two hundred types of sessamum were grown at Tatkon. These have been examined and classified and a selection of twenty-four has been made for trial on a larger scale and for analysis of oil-yield. Seven kinds of groundnut were tried on three of the farms in the dry zone. Two of these were condemned by the exporting firms to whom samples were submitted, for the reason that the proportion of husk to seed was too large. Experiments with the other five varieties will be continued to determine which contain most oil as

well as which can be most easily harvested. The seed of selected short-lived *magale* cotton (*Gossypium neglectum*) issued from Tatkon was tested on the Taungtha seed farm, and found to maintain its high outturn of lint. A very little of the seed has now been distributed, and in addition the seed is being multiplied by one or two landowners in Meiktila and Myingyan under the supervision of the District Agriculturist. The outturn of lint was found to be 7 per cent. more than the average outturn. Experiments at Padu with white and yellow-flowered plants confirm the conclusion pointed to by previous experiments at Tatkon that the white-flowered give the heavier outturn of lint. The seed of the long-lived *magyi* cotton (*Gossypium obtusifolium*) plant with a lint outturn of 45 per cent. which was isolated at Tatkon in 1915-16 did not prove fertile; what seed was reproduced is being sown out and a further attempt will be made to select strains with a high yield and a good ginning percentage out of samples furnished by cultivators in the Thayetmyo District. It is hoped that the crossing which has been successfully made of an imported Broach cotton with *magyi* may produce a strain combining the finer and longer staple of the Broach with the greater lint outturn of the local variety. Experiments made with Buri and Egyptian cottons did not prove successful but further trials will be made with Cambodian cotton on the Allanmyo farm where it promises better than at Tatkon. Further investigations were made into the formation of the prussic acid constituent in the so-called Burma bean (*Phaseolus lunatus*). A strain of the speckled red variety (*pegya*) was grown which yields a very small amount of this acid, and an attempt is being made to obtain a similar strain of the small white variety (*pebyugale*). Twenty-three strains of bread wheat and 45 strains of macaroni wheat were under observation at the Hopin and Padu farms. Work was also done on the arhar, dhall plant (*pesingon*—*Cajanus indicus*), the field-grown pea known as *sodape*, also on safflower, linseed, guinea-grass and tobacco. Experiments proved that the water hyacinth is of no commercial utility. Experimental plots of jute are being grown at jails and elsewhere in the Delta. The Agricultural Chemist finished his inquiry into the Mandalay milk supply. The Imperial Silk Specialist visited Burma in September 1916 and on his advice a small farm for sericulture was opened at Amarapura in connection with the Saunders Weaving Institute. During the year experiments were made to determine the effect of different types of manure on the clay soil at Mandalay. Investigation of typical Lower Burma soils was continued. An examination was begun of the crabs and snails which cause damage to the rice-crop in Lower Burma. An experiment at Mandalay did not reveal any appreciable difference in germinating capacity between machine-threshed and bullock-trodden corn.

Chart IV—
Farming
from and
Distribution.

84. During the year over 2,000 baskets of selected paddy-seed were issued from the Agricultural Station at Hmawbi and some 3,300 baskets from the Mandalay farm. The multiplication of pure cotton seed is not yet sufficiently advanced to admit of general distribution nor as yet have the kinds of groundnut most suited for cultivation been determined. The department in addition to providing seeds grown on its own farms also gave assistance to cultivators in procuring other seed for them. Thus 3,000 baskets of wheat were purchased and cleaned for co-operative societies in the Shwebo District. The Tatkon farm issued 50 baskets of small white bean in its neighbourhood and in Thayetmyo the District Agriculturist procured and sold over 100 baskets. Onion seed was obtained from India for growers in Kyaukse, and 48,000 sets of sugar-cane were distributed in the Mōn Canal area where the District Agriculturist also helped to introduce a new variety of early sesamum. Little demonstration was undertaken during the year. An Agricultural Assistant was placed on special duty in the northern part of the Shwebo District, to show how wheat could be grown on the inundated lands along the Mu River. Towards the close of the year the services of a jute demonstrator with two skilled workmen were lent by the Government of Bengal, to teach methods of growing and retting. Agricultural implements to a value of Rs. 1,650 in the Northern and Rs. 2,900 in the Southern Circle were sold, the purchasers for the most part being Co-operative Credit Societies.

Seed
distribution
and
demonstration.

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Protec-
tion and
Dissem-
ination.

Veterinary
Department
Staff and
Veterinary
School.

Cattle dis-
eases.

85. Excluding superior officers, the staff of the Veterinary Department at the close of the year consisted of 15 inspectors and 142 assistants in Burma proper as against 12 inspectors and 130 assistants twelve months before. There were also 2 inspectors and 19 assistants in the Shan States. The gross expenditure of the department was Rs. 2,86,756 as against Rs. 2,75,643 in 1915-16, the excess being due to the cost of the Stock-Breeding Committee. The Veterinary School Insein had 59 pupils in attendance at the beginning of the year and 34 at its close. During the year 18 pupils passed the final examination. Six pupils were dismissed during the year, for misdemeanours of varying degrees of turpitude, but generally the conduct of the boys was good. Efforts to obtain a better class of student met with no more success than heretofore. At the veterinary hospital attached to the school the number of animals treated was 2,048, including 363 in-patients. The average number of animals treated daily continued to rise steadily and this year was 35.2 as against 29.03 in the previous year. In the laboratory a total number of 6,967 specimens were examined, of which number 3,813 were sent in from the Districts mostly by the District Veterinary Assistants. The stipendiary students doing a post-graduate course at Calcutta passed their second examination.

86. The year was remarkably free from cattle disease. The number of cattle dying from contagious diseases was 9,448, a slight advance on the 7,210 in 1915-16, which was the lowest figure ever recorded for the Province. Practically all the increase comes from Lower Burma. Foot-and-mouth disease was the main scourge and claimed a total number of 5,085 victims, 3,985 in Lower Burma and 1,100 in Upper Burma as against 1,242 and 540 respectively in the previous year. Mortality figures exceeding 500 were recorded in four Lower Burma Districts, Bassein, Myaungmya (principally in the Myaungmya Subdivision), Kyaukpadaung, and the Salween Hill Tracts. Bassein, with 807 deaths, and Myaungmya, with 756, were the Districts worst affected. Upper Burma, with the exception of the Myingyan District, where 726 animals died, was during the year singularly free from foot-and-mouth disease, as indeed from all contagious disease. The number of deaths from rinderpest fell to 2,058 from 3,389 in 1915-16, the decrease in Lower Burma being from 2,507 to 1,488, and, in Upper Burma, from 1,082 to 570. Akyab District, with over 700 deaths, was the only District in Lower Burma to suffer to any marked extent. Diseases returned by the villagers as anthrax caused 2,305 deaths as against 1,839 in 1915-16, Lower Burma with a total number of 1,852 deaths being responsible for practically all the increase. The only severe outbreak was in the Wakema Subdivision of the Myaungmya District where just over 600 head of cattle died. In the Southern Shan States the health of cattle was generally good, except in the North-Eastern Subdivision, where rinderpest caused 2,200 deaths. Foot-and-mouth disease though widespread was nowhere severe. In the Northern Shan States, contagious diseases prevailed generally throughout the year. Only one State enjoyed comparative freedom from disease. Rinderpest was the malady that caused by far the largest number of deaths, but outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease and anthrax also occurred. Preventive inoculation against rinderpest was practised in six Districts to combat 28 separate outbreaks. Of a total number of 3,628 animals so inoculated only 21 are reported to have died, the number of deaths among uninoculated cattle being 136. The number of cattle inoculated in the previous year had been 6,814. The number of animals treated by the department for contagious diseases was 76,051 as against 50,725 in 1915-16, while the number treated for non-contagious diseases fell from 44,036 to 41,803. The recorded cattle-mortality from non-contagious diseases was 69,075 in Lower Burma, and 19,661 in Upper Burma, as against corresponding figures of 60,891 and 18,561 in the previous year. In Upper Burma the registration of cattle-mortality was applied to the Yamethin District. During the year there were again outbreaks of contagious disease due to importation from across the frontier. The rules for the segregation of cattle in case of an outbreak of contagious disease were generally observed, the villagers recognizing that segregation is the most effective means of coping with such outbreaks.

87. A special census of agricultural stock was made during the year by the Land Records staff at the instance of the Stock-Breeding Committee. The total number of cattle, of which nearly half are bulls and bullocks was found to be over 5 millions, while there were $1\frac{1}{2}$ million buffaloes. Bulls and bullocks were enumerated separately and it was found that in the Province taken as a whole there are, roughly, three bullocks to every bull. The preponderance of bullocks is more marked in the rice-growing Lower Burma Districts, while castration is less practised in the Arakan Division than anywhere else in the Province. The year was good for live stock and the number of deaths from infectious or contagious diseases was small. The cultivators are taking more interest in segregation as a means of preventing the spread of disease and the existence of cattle insurance societies is having a good influence. As regards oxen there was a decrease in the number of cows from 1,524,556 in 1915-16 to 1,362,724 in the year of report. The reduction is most marked in Sagaing, Myingyan, Yamèthin, Shwebo and Meiktila. But the number of bulls and bullocks increased from 2,053,166 to 2,401,516, while there were 1,258,615 calves as against 1,170,200 in the previous year. The number of male buffaloes rose from 380,387 to 389,076, that of female buffaloes from 412,941 to 434,749. The increase was more marked in young stock, the number of buffalo calves rising from 293,062 to 359,290. No change worthy of note took place during the year in the number of horses, goats or sheep. The number of pigs in the Province decreased by 14 per cent. The decrease has been attributed to the high price of fish in Upper Burma, to a more general consumption of pork as a result of a popular preacher having reprobated the use of beef as an article of diet, and to the spread of a popular belief that a tax was going to be imposed on pigs. But the decrease is by no means universal or evenly distributed. It is significant that in the tract including the contiguous Districts Lower Chi dwin, Sagaing, Myingyan, Magwe, Meiktila and Yamèthin the number of pigs has decreased by over 50 per cent. since 1914-15.

In accordance with a resolution moved at a meeting of the Burma Legislative Council in March 1916, which resolution was accepted by the Local Government, a Committee was appointed to report on the general conditions prevailing in Burma in regard to the breeding, the tending, the sale and the supply to non-breeding areas of cattle (oxen and buffaloes), ponies, pigs, goats and sheep and to make proposals for the improvement of these conditions with special regard to the advisability of introducing co-operative methods. The Committee's report was not submitted till after the close of the year.

88. Exclusive of advances to Co-operative Societies, the loans made by Government to agriculturists during the year amounted to Rs. 12.55 lakhs while at the beginning of the year Rs. 13.95 lakhs were outstanding; thus the total amount on loan was Rs. 26.50 lakhs or Rs. 1.03 lakhs more than in 1915-16. The sum due for collection during the year was Rs. 16.44 lakhs and the sum collected was Rs. 12.08 lakhs. The amount suspended by competent authority, Rs. 1.14 lakhs, was less by Rs. 37,705 than in the previous year, while the sum overdue, Rs. 2.73 lakhs, was Rs. 10,593 more; Rs. 856 were remitted as against Rs. 712 in the previous year. The balance outstanding at the end of the year, Rs. 14.41 lakhs, was Rs. 46,658 more than in 1915-16. Advances and collections show some striking differences; of the total amount on loan, four Districts, Kyaukpyu, Prome, Yamèthin and Shwebo, account for over one-third; and of the balance outstanding at the end of the year, five Districts Kyaukpyu, Prome, Shwebo, Meiktila and Yamèthin were responsible for just half. The amount suspended by competent authority fell by Rs. 37,705, but the amount overdue rose by Rs. 10,593. The heaviest suspensions were in Upper Burma, where Shwebo, Kyauksè and Yamèthin had each to suspend payment of over Rs. 13,000. In Lower Burma, Kyaukpyu and Ma-ubin alone had more than Rs. 7,500 suspended. Three Districts had over Rs. 20,000 overdue, namely Kyaukpyu Rs. 97,319, Yamèthin Rs. 43,925, and Ma-ubin Rs. 20,015. Substantial recoveries from Kyaukpyu cannot be looked for until the return of better times. Financial stringency accounts for the large suspensions in Yamèthin and Ma-ubin. In most Districts the loans are used for buying plough cattle and seed.

CHAP. IV.—
Protec-
tion and
Distribu-
tion.

Stock.

Agricultural
loans.

**CHAP. IV.—
PRODUC-
TION AND
DISTRIBU-
TION.**

Cases of misappropriation were few. In Amherst a borrower was personated and a loan taken in a false name. In Pakòkku a case of forgery in connection with loans in 1913-14 came to light, and a headman and two villagers were convicted. In Mònywa a case in which a headman is alleged to have induced cultivators to borrow and share the proceeds with him was still under enquiry at the end of the year. Under the Land Improvement Loans Act Rs. 15,650 were advanced during the year. A sum of Rs. 31,204 was outstanding, so that the total sum advanced at the end of the year was Rs. 46,854. Of a total of Rs. 15,157 due for collection, Rs. 12,453 were collected, Rs. 1,685 remitted, Rs. 1,389 suspended by competent authority and Rs. 1,175 were overdue. The loans are used mainly for constructing dams, small canals, and tanks for irrigation and are practically confined to Upper Burma, where Myingyan in the year of report took three-fifths of the whole amount advanced. Remissions were due in Amherst to the failure of a cotton-growing scheme begun in 1904 and in Yamèthin to the failure of a dam and the taking over of a private work by the Irrigation Department. The interest on loans collected during the year was Rs. 1,221 12 out of which the interest charges of the Government of India at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. were Rs. 74,186. As Rs. 2,541 were remitted, the profit to the Local Government was Rs. 45,385.

**Protection
from floods.**

89. Embankments constructed for the protection of cultivation are maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department. The principal works lie along the course of the Irrawaddy River in Lower Burma, but there are works on a smaller scale along the banks of the Sittang River. For the main works on the Irrawaddy, both capital and revenue accounts are kept, but the works on the Sittang River and the Ma-ubin Embankment in the Ma-ubin District have revenue accounts only. The capital outlay on embankments for which both capital and revenue accounts are kept was Rs. 1·57 lakhs, which raises the total capital outlay to Rs. 41·88 lakhs. Receipts increased from Rs. 14·90 lakhs to Rs. 15·99 lakhs and working expenses fell from Rs. 2·21 lakhs to Rs. 2·18 lakhs, profits thus rising from Rs. 12·68 lakhs to Rs. 13·81 lakhs and representing a return of 32·97 per cent. on the capital outlay, as against 31·47 per cent. in the previous year. The area protected increased from 496,105 to 498,452 acres. The embankments for which only revenue accounts are kept show an increase in the area protected from 197,321 to 198,921 acres. Revenue receipts were Rs. 6·72 lakhs as against Rs. 6·64 lakhs in the previous year, working expenses were Rs. 1·02 lakhs as against Rs. 1·75 lakhs leaving a profit of Rs. 5·71 lakhs as against Rs. 4·89 lakhs. On the main Irrawaddy, it was decided not to carry the extension of the Myanaung bund beyond Ludawzu, which point it had reached in the previous year. Earthwork costing Rs. 25,482 was done at the Yandoon Island Embankment. The levels of various portions of the main bunds were restored in places where there had been sinking. Work was continued at the Moyingyi Extension bund in the Pegu District. The bund had been partly made in 1915-16 but had sunk all over and been breached in many places. The bund was not completed during the year, a length of some 7,000 feet still remaining. The expenditure on this bund now amounts to Rs. 1·09 lakhs. Some low parts of the Moyingyi-Zwebat bund were raised to the proper level. The work of metalling the Sittang bund through important villages was continued and completed. A scheme to train the Yenwe stream at Pyuntaza was sanctioned and work put in hand during the year, a sum of some Rs. 76,000 being expended. The surveys for the Pyuntaza Plain Drainage scheme were completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 31,288.

Weather and Crops.

**Character of
the seasons.**

90. The monsoon in Lower Burma commenced in good time, and, as the rainfall was neither greatly above nor short of the normal in most Districts and was also on the whole well distributed, conditions were favourable for the main rice crop. Breaks in the monsoon long enough to cause damage were of little note except in the Tenasserim Division, floods were fewer and less serious than of late years, and there was good harvest weather. In Upper Burma where a farmer

hardly looks for a succession of good seasons outside the irrigated area, the year proved on the whole fair. The early rains were disappointing in the north and affected the supply of water for irrigation, but generally the conditions were not unfavourable; as always the middle rains were uneven, but few Districts suffered badly and except for damage here and there to early sessamum through drought in September, and to other crops by heavy rains, dry crops were successful. There was little serious damage and although the high rise of the Irrawaddy and Chin in October caused destruction in riverine and island lands, the damaged areas were partly resown with dry crops.

CROP. IV.—
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

91. The total estimated outturn of unhusked rice for the Province was 6,913,000 tons as against 6,657,000 tons in the previous year. Most of the great rice-growing Districts reported better outturns than last year, the improvement being most conspicuous in Pyawb and only four Districts, Akyab, Bassein, Amherst and Thaton showed a considerable decline. The yield throughout Lower Burma taken as a whole was fully 97 per cent. of the normal yield, as against 95 per cent. last year. The total amount of rice available for export was estimated to be 2,700,000 tons. The price of unhusked rice in Rangoon was fairly steady at Rs. 120 to Rs. 125 (per hundred baskets of 46 lbs.). A drop in November was followed by a sharp rise to between Rs. 130 and Rs. 140 for the old crop at the end of December. The market for the new crop opened at Rs. 98 at the beginning of January but cultivators held up their paddy in the hope of a rise and the price rose steadily to Rs. 120 towards the end of March. By the middle of April there was a sharp drop to Rs. 105 and thereafter until the end of June Rs. 100 represented a more or less nominal market price. In Bassein a fall on the coming in of the new crop from Rs. 100 to Rs. 95 was followed by a reaction at the end of January and prices rose steadily to Rs. 125 at the end of March and beginning of April. In Moulmein Rs. 100 was the prevailing price till the middle of February when it rose sharply to Rs. 115 which level was maintained for some time. Those of the cultivators, and they were perhaps in the majority, who sold in February or March obtained in most places from Rs. 110 to Rs. 120 or even more, for their produce. In Bassein, which may be taken as a typical rice District the average price may be taken as Rs. 111 as against Rs. 97 and Rs. 91 respectively for the two previous years. At the close of the year of report considerable stocks were held in the Districts by speculators, while supplies in Rangoon were ample. It was an interesting problem to what extent and at what price holders would be able to dispose of these stocks. The governing factor was of course the supply of shipping. Substantial purchases had been expected on behalf of Great Britain and her Allies, for which of course freight would be provided, and it was known that there would be a large demand if ships were available, from Ceylon, the Straits and Java. But it seemed improbable that the hopes of the speculators would be realized. The price of sessamum was much above normal in the two Districts most concerned, Magwe and Myingyan, where sessamum is produced for sale. The outturn throughout the Province was considerably better than in the previous year. The price of groundnut in Pakokku and Myingyan was above the previous year's price but in Magwe the price fell slightly. The outturn was above the normal in practically all the Districts in which the crop is important. Cotton realized better prices this year in all the four main cotton-producing Districts, Thayetmyo, Sagaing, Meiktila and Myingyan, the rise varying from 46 per cent. to 78 per cent. above the previous year's prices. In Myingyan the highest price paid was Rs. 45 per 100 viss, which is a record. The area under cotton in the Province had increased by 27 per cent. in response to the improvement in prices in the preceding year. The yield was much better than in the previous year, but was still a little below the normal. The large demand for the small available supply of white beans for export led to much speculation. Prices in Rangoon for the previous season's crop ruled from Rs. 600 to Rs. 750 and in October touched Rs. 800 per hundred baskets. This had a striking effect in the bean-growing Districts. Cultivators extended cultivation, paying in places as much as Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 a basket for seed, traders and brokers were eager to get an option on the crop, and much was bought before the crop was harvested. When the new crop came in further speculation ensued, and prices ranged from

Outturns
and prices.

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PROGRESS AND
DEVELOPMENT.

Rs. 550 to Rs. 725 during the remaining months of the year of report. Generally white beans were from two to three times their normal price but most of the extra profit has gone to the speculator. Speculation in Burma beans was not confined to the Province and was the cause of a discreditable profiteering scandal in England during the year.

Co-operation.

Administra-
tive and
General.

92. There was no great expansion in 1916-17 in the area in which co-operative societies are at work. In Upper Burma the first union was registered in the Magwe District, and in the Pakōkku and Myingyan Districts, the movement spread into Townships hitherto untouched. Applications were also received from new areas in the Katha District. In Lower Burma the reorganisation of the staff on the lines adopted in the previous year in Upper Burma, was practically completed and the administrative charges of this portion of the Province so arranged that the future expansion of co-operation into new areas can take place without unduly burdening the Government auditing staff. Additional staff was sanctioned during the year to enable the new system to be fully adopted in Lower Burma and a more effective distribution of work to be arranged in Upper Burma. Three new Assistant Registrars and two new Junior Assistant Registrars were appointed during the year in addition to two such officers specially deputed to colonization work. At the end of the year there were six Assistant Registrars and 27 Junior Assistant Registrars. During the latter part of the year two officers of the Burma Commission were employed in the department as colonization officers.

The co-operative movement continued to progress during the year, at the close of which there were in all 2,575 societies of all sorts with a total membership of 61,105. The total working capital of all classes of societies at the close of the year was Rs. 1,40'68 lakhs of which, however, Rs. 45'69 lakhs is counted twice. During the year co-operative societies did excellent service in connection with the collection of War Loan subscriptions. The corporate subscriptions of societies amounted to Rs. 4'68 lakhs. In addition to this they provided facilities enabling non-members to subscribe to the War Loan and by these means a sum of Rs. 5'98 lakhs was collected, mostly composed of sums of under ten rupees.

Unions and
Central
Banks.

93. The number of unions which was 112 in 1914-15 and 189 in 1915-16 increased to 207 in the year of report. The Unions did excellent work as propagandists of co-operation. Their work in valuing the assets of affiliated societies, determining the amounts for repayment, and fixing the maximum limits of borrowing for the year has been, in the great majority of cases, carefully and satisfactorily done, and the practical ability and public spirit of the leading men show that there is no danger of future expansion being checked through the lack of capable leaders. All Unions however have not reached the same high standard. In one Union serious misappropriation took place. In several others the Chairman and other leaders are careless, slow to realize their responsibilities, or unduly regardful of their own personal interests. The main cause of existing defects in Union administration is the Burmese failing of undue disinclination to deal with the faults and misdemeanours of others. The Upper Burma Central Bank had a successful year in spite of the depreciation of its securities owing to the prolongation of the war. The paid-up share capital increased from Rs. 2'28 lakhs to Rs. 2'51 lakhs, loans to banks and societies from Rs. 21'47 lakhs to Rs. 30'70 lakhs and repayments of loans and deposits from Rs. 12'06 lakhs to Rs. 19'09 lakhs. The total amount of loans due from banks and societies was Rs. 39'25 lakhs as against Rs. 27'89 lakhs in the previous year. Loans and deposits from individuals rose from Rs. 51'07 lakhs to Rs. 71'42 lakhs. After setting aside Rs. 40,257 to meet depreciation, the Bank has been able to increase its Reserve Fund from Rs. 58,007 to Rs. 84,926, and its Special Reserve for bad and doubtful debts from Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 15,000, while at the same time paying a dividend of 5 per cent. These additions to reserve were made possible by the extra commission of one per cent. charged on all loans during the year. The Bank has continued to hold the fluid resources of the whole movement and the standard recommended by the Committee on Co-operation has

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FINANCE
AND
DISTRIBUTION.

been fully maintained throughout the year. The demands upon the funds of the Bank owing to the expansion of the movement were in excess of the money available in spite of an increase of Rs. 5½ lakhs in the fixed deposits received. The Bank took a prominent share in the collection of War Loan subscriptions by societies, a total sum of Rs. 10,65,400 being invested through its agency. Repayments from societies were not so large as in the previous year but reached the satisfactory proportion of 25 per cent. to the loans issued. The three District Central Banks have improved their position during the year. Their aggregate working capital increased from Rs. 7.52 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 10.88 lakhs, the paid-up share capital from Rs. 1.07 lakhs to Rs. 1.36 lakhs and loans and deposits from individuals received during the year increased from Rs. 1.47 lakhs to Rs. 6.36 lakhs. Loans made during the year were Rs. 6.53 lakhs as against Rs. 5.08 lakhs, repayments of loans were Rs. 3.19 lakhs as against Rs. 2.19 lakhs while the amount of loans due increased from Rs. 7.60 lakhs to Rs. 10.95 lakhs.

Agricultural
Credit
Societies.

94. Agricultural credit societies, which at the end of 1914-15 numbered 1,252, and a year later 1,685, numbered 1,934 at the close of the year of report. The corresponding increases of membership were from 30,130 to 36,494 to 42,877. The average number of members per agricultural society, which in the previous year fell from 24 to 21 rose to 22 in the year of report. The average loan per member in Agricultural Credit Societies is Rs. 155. The progressive increase is due to the growth of co-operation in Lower Burma, where much larger loans are required than in Upper Burma. Thus in Shwebo the average loan is Rs. 100 and in Pakokku is under that figure, whereas in Pegu the average is Rs. 247 per head of membership. The expansion during the year of report was entirely due to propaganda by the existing Unions and would have been greater but for a shortage of the funds in the Upper Burma Central Bank, which, though increasing by five lakhs of rupees, were inadequate to meet all the demands made on them. The progressive rise in the standard of efficiency of societies continued during the year and the majority of faults in their working that came to light during the year were due to ignorance and incapacity and a reluctance to incur the odium of bringing faults to light, rather than to more serious causes. The registration of 34 societies was cancelled during the year. The progress of liquidation was hampered by the adverse conditions created by the prolongation of the war. Court sales rarely produced a reasonable price for the assets sold, and in many cases the liquidator wisely allowed extensions of time in preference to selling up the ex-members' property at a heavy loss. The weakest spot in the movement continues to be the Yamethin District. The worst societies are however slowly being liquidated and several efficient Unions are making their appearance. The societies in the Mahlaing Township of the Meiktila District also leave something to be desired. In this case their comparative inefficiency is largely due to a succession of poor seasons. The classification by Registrar on audit resulted in 44 societies being classed A, 208 as B and 344 as D. The remainder were classed C or are of too recent formation to be suitable for classification. The proportion of A and B societies to the total number of Agricultural Credit Societies is the same as last year, namely 13 per cent., while the proportion of D societies has fallen by one from 18 to 17 per cent.

Colonization
areas.

95. Work was continued during the year in five special areas in which land is being colonized under the auspices of the Co-operative Department. In the Môn Canals area in Minbu the year was the fifth year of the existence of the societies. The harvest was good and the only untoward incident was the collapse of the paddy market in April. In spite of this, repayments were not less nor later than in the previous year. The nett indebtedness to Government and to the local Co-operative Bank at the close of the year was Rs. 126 per head of membership as against Rs. 130 twelve months earlier. There is no tendency for colonists to part with their holdings. There has been some improvement in the working of the societies, an improvement in account-keeping rather than in management and business methods. The year was the second year of the societies at Kadônaw in the Hantha-

waddy District. For the second year co-operative sale of the paddy crop took place. Satisfactory prices were realized, some 170,000 baskets of paddy fetching over two lakhs of rupees. Eight cattle-purchase societies were formed among the 15 Kadonbaw societies. Over 600 head of cattle were purchased by buyers sent up to Upper Burma and delivered to members at prices several rupees per head lower than the current local rates. A review of the financial position showed that it is probable that the indebtedness of the societies will continue to increase until the end of 1918-19 and will thereafter gradually diminish. The necessity of more liberal financing was also proved, as at present the colonists are compelled to take advances at high rates of interest from local money-lenders to enable them to make the necessary cash advances to their ploughmen during the rains. Government loans to societies increased on this account are estimated to reach a maximum of nearly Rs. 1,000 per member or about Rs. 30 per acre at the end of 1918-19, which will be the fourth year of the societies. During the year nine Credit combined with Tenancy Co-partnership societies formed on the Kadonbaw model were created in parts of the Yitkangyi Forest Reserve and in the Singyun Island in the Pegu District. The land was surveyed and demarcated and the colonists settled thereon in March. The four societies near Ela in the Yamethin District are not flourishing. Two of them are in a hopeless, one in a parlous condition, only one can be regarded as a normal society and even its condition is not altogether satisfactory. In the Namyin valley in the Myitkyina District the work of restoring the existing societies to a sound condition and of colonizing the large waste spaces that remain was proceeded with under the charge of a special colonization officer. In the northern end of the area a block of 18,000 acres was reserved for colonization by soldiers of the Indian Army after the war. From the Nampadaung stream which is the southern boundary of that block to the Katha District border the whole valley is now being treated on colonization lines. In the southern portion of the colonization area most existing villages already possessed societies included in the Hopin Union. These societies were enlarged by the admission of new members, the financial position of all members was investigated, and existing outside debts as far as possible paid off with society money. The result is a great improvement in the general financial position. The worst of the Indian money-lenders who operated in the valley, have, on being approached by the District authorities, agreed to bring their operations there to a close, a decision doubtless expedited by the murder of one of their number by an Indian debtor from whom he was demanding payment of arrears. In the northern portion of the colonization area a new Pinbaw Union was formed including two societies already in existence and 16 new societies. The new societies had a total number of 361 members and the average loan granted was Rs. 300. In all 4,500 acres of waste land were allotted to old and new members. The colonists form a heterogeneous company. Nearly one-half of them are Little Shans. The others comprise Shans proper, Maingthas, Burmans, Kadus, Chins and Kachins with two Manipuris and one Karen.

Other
Societies.

96. There has been a revival of interest in urban co-operation during the year. Societies have increased from 46 to 54 in number, the membership has risen by 42 per cent. and there has been a considerable advance in efficiency. In Rangoon the societies in the large Government offices had a successful year. The only setback in a year of otherwise very satisfactory progress was the embezzlement of a very large sum of money by the Secretary of the Myanaung Urban Society. The Secretary was convicted and sent to prison for six months. A special Assistant Registrar for Urban Societies was appointed during the year.

Cattle insurance societies increased from 305 to 324 during the year and the membership from 5,045 to 5,248. The smallness of the increase is due to the poor season in several parts of the five Districts to which these societies are confined. Owing to deaths having been very few in the previous year, there was a tendency to regard the premium as too high. In the year of report deaths were more numerous and the advantages of insurance have thereby been made more manifest. A total number of 9,135 animals was insured for a total value of Rs. 3'05 lakhs as against 7,929 animals for Rs. 2'87 lakhs in 1915-16. A sum of

Rs. 15,758 was collected as premia as against Rs. 9,737, the number of deaths rose from 75 to 146 and payment of claims rose from Rs. 685 to Rs. 3,517. The Central Cattle Re-insurance Society insured 6,388 animals for Rs. 1.43 lakhs as against 6,809 for Rs. 1.13 lakhs in the previous year. A sum of Rs. 7,656 was received as premia as against Rs. 4,022. Deaths rose from 37 to 146 and Rs. 1.14 was paid in claims as against Rs. 247.

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DISTRIBUTION.

There were 40 sale societies as against 18 in the previous year. The majority are temporary institutions which exist only during the particular season in which they are in operation, and this lack of continuity hinders the development of administrative skill and causes the societies to rely too much on the Government staff. The societies, however, are slowly forming a connection with the Supply and Transport Corps and other large purchasers.

Horticulture.

97. The Agri-Horticultural Society of Burma, with headquarters and gardens in Rangoon, is the only society of its kind in the Province. During the year the membership of the Society was 221, as against 223 in the previous year. The revenue account for the year showed a loss of Rs. 797 as compared with a profit of Rs. 380 in the previous year. Receipts rose from Rs. 39,552 to Rs. 40,901 and expenditure from Rs. 39,172 to Rs. 41,698. Owing to the war no show was held in 1916, but the sale of plants, flowers and seeds to members increased and stocks were maintained.

Horticultural
Societies.

The Tenasserim Agri-Horticultural Society is now defunct. It is reported to have died a natural death "sometime in 1914."

Forests.

98. The aggregate area of forest reserves in the Province at the beginning of the year was 18,282,427 acres. During the year an area of 311,201 acres was reserved, 3,833 acres were disforested, and recomputation of areas having shown an increase of 40,868 acres, the aggregate area at the close of the year was 18,630,663 acres, or 20,110 square miles, of which 1,230 square miles were subject to the practice of shifting cultivation. The estimated area of unclassed forests at the beginning of the year was 72,803,396 acres, the gains and losses during the year were respectively 22,961 acres and 1,372,245 acres and the estimated area at the close of the year was 71,454,112 acres or 111,647 square miles, of which 9,712 square miles are estimated to be without forest growth. The area undergoing settlement with a view to reservation at the commencement of the year was 945 square miles. An area of 699 square miles was taken in hand during the year. An area of 488 square miles was finally settled, and at the close of the year the area in process of settlement was 1,107 square miles. The length of forest reserve boundaries demarcated for the first time was 366 miles, and the total length of the boundaries of the permanent reserves was 21,079 miles, of which 17,452 miles are artificially marked boundaries. During the year 2,508 miles of boundaries were repaired as against 2,428 miles in the previous year. No. 11 Party of the Survey of India made a detailed survey on the scale of one inch to the mile of part of the Auckland Bay Reserve in the South Tenasserim Division. The area surveyed was 71.16 square miles. A detailed survey was also made of the Sandawut Reserve. No. 11 Party also completed the detailed survey on a scale of two inches to the mile of part of the Yeyaman Reserve in the Meiktila Division. The total area surveyed during the year was 177.75 square miles. No. 10 Party of the Survey of India completed the detailed survey of the Mokso Extension Reserve in the Myitkyina Division of the Northern Circle. The area surveyed during the year was 59.8 square miles. Working-plans were sanctioned for the Namtu, Nama, Tonglong, Panghsa, Tunpye and Tawnghke Reserves in the Mandalay Division, the total area affected being 128 square miles. Working-plans were sanctioned also for certain reserves in the Yaw Division, the area affected being 493 square

Forest re-
serves, un-
classed
forests,
settlement,
demarca-
tion, survey
and work-
ing-plans.

of Agriculture. The Engineering School, Insein, had a successful year. There were 80 candidates for admission to the engineering classes, of whom 39 were selected: for the first time in the history of this school the recruitment of Burmans was in excess of the demand. The classes opened with 73 and closed with 55 pupils: the wastage, which seems excessive was due to the fact that many entrants were not prepared to take their work seriously enough. Third year students were engaged practically on a Public Works Department drainage survey scheme in the Amherst District. In addition to the engineering classes there is a "telegraph school" with two six-monthly courses, to which 85 students were admitted, 59 passing, 28 of the latter being Burmans. The apprentice class numbered 5: when their training is completed these youths will prove useful teachers in local technical schools or classes. Wood-carving was taught to four pupils by a master wood carver located on the premises. A similar arrangement was sanctioned for bronze workers.

VII
Instruction

180. The number of normal schools remains unchanged, *viz.* twelve, 8 for men and 4 for women. Four of those for men however are "co-educational", *i.e.* admit female students also, one of them being the Government Normal School, Rangoon. The number under training in the normal schools was 677, five more than last year. But in the schools for men the total was 514 as against 529 in 1914-15: on the other hand in schools for women the total was 163 against 143 in the previous year. Anglo-Vernacular normal students numbered 279 of whom 121 were women: Vernacular Normal students numbered 107 women and 291 men. There are no separate courses or certificates for European or Anglo-Indian teachers. The latter may however qualify under certain special conditions set forth in the code for European schools, but otherwise must fall into line with Anglo-Vernacular teachers and share the same normal institutions. It is too early however yet to pass judgment on the working of the new regulations which came into force in June 1915. They certainly set a higher standard of requirement in respect of initial qualifications. The literary and theoretical work is undoubtedly on a fairly high level, but it remains to be seen whether the practical training is as sufficient and efficient as is necessary. To prevent undue hardship to Burmese girls certain concessions have been made but in time these will become unnecessary; the successes recently obtained at the Morton Lane and Kemmendine schools show that Burmese girls can under proper tuition reach the requisite standard. The elementary training classes for Vernacular teachers continued to thrive. There are now 201 elementary teachers receiving Government pay posted out among Vernacular schools. In addition there are others without regular Government pay who after passing out have obtained employment and are aided when funds allow. The expenditure on normal schools rose from Rs. 1,83,592 to Rs. 1,95,053. Provincial funds provided Rs. 1,85,400 and the balance came from private sources.

Training schools.

181. The number of schools increased from 30 to 32, that of pupils from 4,204 to 4,487, a much larger increase than in the previous year. The number of pupils in the secondary stage rose from 1,485 to 1,583. In addition to Europeans and Anglo-Indians in European schools must be reckoned the Anglo-Indians in Anglo-Vernacular schools who number 425. European schools receive Asiatics, and in increasing numbers: the total number of non-European pupils in such schools is now 723. One school in Rangoon is for the Jewish community. No important changes were made in curricula during the year and no striking innovations were attempted by managers. Cooking was taught at four schools. The difficulty was to find competent teachers, especially as the subject is not yet properly organized in the normal schools. All girls' schools taught needle work. Drill was done in all schools except one. Gymnastics were taken in 6 boys' schools. Science was still conspicuous by its absence. For the B.A. 1 male and 2 female students appeared and all passed. For the I.A. out of 4 male and 10 female candidates, 2 men and 10 women passed. In the European High School Examination 40 passed (16 boys and 24 girls) out of 96 candidates, apart from 7 non-Europeans. The total expenditure on European Education fell from

European schools.

Case IV.— miles. Working-plans for four other areas were in various stages of preparation. There was no considerable deviation from working-plans during the year, except that in certain reserves in the Tharrawaddy and North Tounghoo Divisions the control of exploitation was practically suspended in order that the supply of timber for military purposes might not be hampered.

Protection of forests.

99. The number of offences against forest rules rose from 5,667 in 1915-16 to 6,306 in the year of report. Cases of unauthorized fellings or removals increased from 3,910 to 4,307 and cases of unauthorized grazing from 306 to 351. During the year 1,144 cases involving 2,153 persons were decided in the courts, and convictions were obtained in 1,002 cases (87·6 per cent.) against 1,803 persons (83·7 per cent.). Forest Officers compounded 4,851 cases involving 6,814 persons for a total sum of Rs. 54,739, an average of Rs. 11·3 per case, and Rs. 8 per person. Lessees and purchase-contractors paid Rs. 5,322 in fines for breaches of agreement. Government contractors were fined Rs. 690. The area over which protection against fire was attempted was reduced during the year by 132,158 acres and totalled 1,583,178 acres, of which 1,527,276 acres or 96·5 per cent. were successfully protected. The average cost of protection per square mile was Rs. 46 as against Rs. 43 in the previous year. Of the total area of reserved forest, 77·5 per cent. was closed to all cattle throughout the year, 14·5 per cent. was open to all animals except browsers during part of the year and 7·2 per cent. during the whole year. The number of cattle impounded was 4,918 as against an average of 3,549 for the previous triennium. Damage was done by lessees' elephants in Thayetmyo, Nyaunglebin and Minbu Divisions, and by wild animals in numerous localities.

Improvement of forests.

100. Expenditure on new works amounted Rs. 97,894, as against Rs. 78,333 in the previous year. The amount spent on new buildings declined from Rs. 46,793 to Rs. 38,160 and that on new roads increased from Rs. 25,063 to Rs. 54,707. In the Plains Reserve of the Tharrawaddy Division some 5½ miles of laterite roads were constructed in order to facilitate extraction of timber required for military purposes. The total amount expended on repairs to existing works was Rs. 1·14 lakhs, as against Rs. 1·21 lakhs in the previous year. Expenditure on repairs to buildings increased from Rs. 52,190 to Rs. 54,430, and that on repairs to roads decreased from Rs. 55,898 to Rs. 46,803. Lessees of forests report that they expended during the year a sum of Rs. 1·69 lakhs on communications and buildings. No alteration occurred during the year in the area of the regular plantations for the artificial reproduction of teak. The area of *taungya* (hill ide clearing) plantations gained 983 acres by new planting and areas aggregating 610 acres were abandoned as failures. The area devoted to other forms of artificial reproduction was increased during the year by 1,596 acres, while 1,928 acres were lost by recomputation and 617 acres abandoned as failures. The cost of new plantations during the year was Rs. 7,848 and of upkeep Rs. 31,624, as against corresponding figures of Rs. 14,264 and Rs. 21,962 in the previous year.

Exploitation of timber.

101. The number of marketable trees girdled, felled outright or marked for green felling was 212,623. This is more than 7,000 in excess of the number in any previous year and exceeds by over 100,000 the number obtained as recently as 1910-11. The quantity of teak extracted by Government agency was 78,363 tons. The quantity sold by auction at the Rangoon Depot was 20,766 tons as against 15,642 in the previous year. The average price was Rs. 59-8-4 as against Rs. 50-6-3 in the previous year. As the quality of the logs was much the same as in 1915-16 the increased sales and better prices are due to a genuine improvement of the market which is still, however, affected by lack of freight. The quantity of teak extracted by lessees was 313,660 tons, an increase of 72,177 tons, on the figures of the previous year. The quantity of reserved timber extracted by purchasers increased by 17,031 tons to 86,682 tons and of unreserved timber by 47,209 tons to 207,523 tons. The outturn of fuel increased by 94,928 tons to 727,201 tons, mainly owing to increased consumption of firewood by the Burma

Railways Company and by the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, as a result of difficulty in obtaining coal. The value of forest produce granted free fell from Rs. 2.03 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 1.66 lakhs.

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUCTION AND
DUTIES.

102. The financial results are noticed in Chapter V in the section entitled "Revenue and Finance other than Imperial." Finance.

Mines and Quarries.

103. There was a marked increase in mining activity during the year of report in the Tavoy, Mergui and Thaton Districts, where the wolfram and tin mining industries expanded rapidly. The number of registered mines in the Tavoy District increased during the year from 68 to 106. In the Mergui and Thaton Districts a number of mines are approaching the stage of registration. One new mine was opened in the Ruby Mines District during the year. In Tavoy the activities of the District officials more than kept pace with the growth of the mining industries. During the year 130 inspections were made, including inspections made by Government medical officers. In other Districts inspections were made as usual. The Tavoy Chamber of Mines, which was constituted in the previous year, includes representatives of practically every firm engaged in mining and during the year rendered valuable assistance. During the year the general health of employes in mines was on the whole good. The only exception was in the low-lying parts of the Tavoy District where during the months of March, April, and May malarial fever proved a serious scourge. The fact that the fever was less prevalent after the vegetation had been cleared from areas newly opened up justifies the expectation that as clearings are further extended the improved medical facilities which now exist will be sufficient to cope with this malaria. New hospitals and dispensaries have been provided at several of the larger mines and the supply of medicines in common use is now adequate. Wages remained at the same level as in the previous year. Chinese coolies in Tavoy still receive Rs. 1-12-0 per diem. Recently imported Indian coolies receive a monthly wage of from Rs. 12 to Rs. 15. The "tribute" system, whereby the mine-owner purchases from the labourer at a fixed price all the ore produced by the latter, continued in operation in the Tavoy, Mergui and Thaton Districts. There was no considerable variation in the number of women and children employed in mines. In the Tavoy District 17 women and 1 child were engaged in under-ground work and the conditions of their employment were satisfactory, save in one instance in which it was necessary to warn the mine-owner. Twenty fatal accidents occurred during the year, as against nine in the previous year. The chief factor in causing the increase was the bursting of a dam in the Tavoy District, whereby nine coolies were drowned. A full inquiry was held and steps were taken to ensure a closer supervision over the construction and maintenance of such works in future. Two deaths resulted from the careless handling of dynamite. All the other fatal accidents, except one, occurred in the Tavoy District, and were due to landslides for which the negligence of the victims themselves was mainly responsible. There were no prosecutions under the Act during the year.

The Indian
Mines Act.

104. During the year 1916 the number of new applications for prospecting licenses on which orders were passed was 645. Of these 271 were granted, 212 refused and 161 withdrawn. In the previous year the number dealt with was 293 of which 147 were granted, 100 rejected and 46 withdrawn. In addition to new applications, orders were passed on 104 applications for renewal of prospecting licenses, the number granted being 82, while 14 were refused and 8 withdrawn. Of 27 applications for mining leases, one was granted, 14 refused, and 12 withdrawn. In the previous year the number of applications dealt with was 17. At the end of the year 138 applications for prospecting licenses and 21 applications for mining leases were pending as against corresponding figures of 157 and 35 twelve months earlier. Some two-thirds of the total number of applications for the whole Province concerned the Tavoy District, Thaton coming next and Mergui third. The mining lease granted was for petroleum in the Minbu District.

New concessions.

CHINA, IV.—
FUTURE
PROSPECTS AND
DEVELOPMENTS
1916-17.

105. The output of petroleum in the Province, which in the previous year amounted to 28½ million gallons valued at Rs. 1,85.97 lakhs, increased in 1916 to 29½ million gallons, while its value decreased to Rs. 1,65.13 lakhs. There are in the Province seven petroleum-producing Districts, Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Thayetmyo, Magwe, Myingyan, Pakōkku and Minbu. The output from the first three of these Districts was only some 115,000 gallons. The Yenangyaung Oil-field in the Magwe District continues to be the largest producer. During the last five years this oil-field has yielded over two-thirds of the total output for Burma. The yield from this field increased from 175 million gallons in 1914 to 199 million gallons in 1915 and decreased slightly during the year of report. In the Singu Oil-field, which is next in importance, the output increased from 77 million gallons to about 86 million gallons. The Singu Oil-field was transferred with effect from July 1st, 1916 from the Myingyan to the Magwe District and the output from the Magwe District, which includes the yield from the Singu field for the half-year July to December, amounted to 240 million gallons. In the smaller fields an increase of 1½ million gallons to 5½ million gallons in the output from the Yenangyat field in the Pakōkku District was the most noticeable feature of the year. The output from Minbu was 2 million gallons as against 2½ million gallons, and from Myingyan 44 million gallons as against 77 million gallons in the previous year. On a report that oil had been struck in a deep bore on a concession near Minhla in the Thayetmyo District, the locality was surveyed and demarcated into blocks of one square mile each. Several of these blocks were taken up, but oil was not obtained in any quantity.

Wolfram.

106. The production of wolfram increased from 2,546 tons in 1915 to 3,680 tons. The Tavoy District alone produced 3,034 tons, over 1,000 tons more than in the previous year. In consequence of the need of wolfram for the manufacture of high-speed steel, special measures were taken by Government to encourage the output. Several of the larger firms in Rangoon were induced to take up wolfram concessions. The shortage in the supply of labour at the mines was met by the importation of Chinese and Indian labourers through Government agency. The Deputy Commissioner, Tavoy, was relieved of his other duties in order that he might give special attention to wolfram-mining. The services of two Geological officials, a Government Mining Engineer, and an officer of the Chinese Protectorate in the Federated Malay States were lent to the Local Government to assist in the control of mining methods and of the labour employed on the mines. On many of the smaller mines and on some of the larger ones the methods of working still leave much to be desired, but, with the introduction of a greater number of firms of standing, and with the more efficient control which is being exercised, there has been a marked improvement both in output and in methods of mining employed. Crushing and other machinery is being installed at several of the mines, and a magnetic separator has been set up at Tavoy, so that there is reason to expect a further increase of output. The total value of the wolfram produced during the year was Rs. 72.95 lakhs as against Rs. 42.66 lakhs in 1915. In addition to Tavoy, the Mergui District produced 340 tons, the Thaton District 91 tons and the Southern Shan States 214 tons.

Rubies.

107. The Burma Ruby Mines Company, Limited, continued their operations during the year in the country round Mogōk. The output which had decreased from 304,872 carats in 1914 to 251,449 carats in 1915 again decreased to 209,724 carats in the year of report. The estimated value of the output however was higher than in 1915 being Rs. 5.63 lakhs as against Rs. 5.45 lakhs. The total output in 1916 consisted of 136,783 carats of rubies, 34,100 carats of sapphires and 38,841 carats of spinels. The royalties collected from native mine-owners rose from Rs. .56 lakh in 1915 to Rs. 1.10 lakhs.

Other
minerals.

108. The output of gold from the Province fell from 3,183 ounces in 1915 to 1,983 ounces in the year of report. Of the total amount some 1,900 ounces were obtained from the dredging concession of the Burma Gold Dredging Company, Limited, in the Myitkyina District. There has been a

considerable increase in the output of tin ore during recent years. The output was 83 tons in 1909, 175 tons in 1912, 265 tons in 1915 and 497 in 1916. The ore is obtained from alluvial gravels in the Mergui and Tavoy Districts and in the Bawlake State of the Karenni Shan States. Towards the end of 1916 valuable deposits of tin are reported to have been found near the Thaton-Martaban railway in the Thaton District. In the year of report Thaton had an output of 49 tons of tin ore, Tavoy 126 tons and the Southern Shan States 214 tons. The output from Mergui was 108 tons of tin ore and 113 tons of block tin. The total value of the Provincial output of tin and tin ore was Rs. 6.73 lakhs. The mining of silver, lead and zinc in the Province is bound up with the development of the mines at Bawdwin in the Northern Shan States by the Burma Mines Company. Argentiferous lead ores are found in the Bawdwin mines. These mines were worked at one time by Chinese from Yunnan for the extraction of silver, but were abandoned some fifty years ago. In 1902 a concession over the area was granted to a syndicate of British capitalists and the mines have been extensively and rapidly developed during recent years. The growth of the company's activities during the year of report has been noticed in Chapter I, paragraph 6 of this Report. The total output of silver in 1916 was 759,012 ounces valued at Rs. 13.28 lakhs as against 284,875 ounces valued at Rs. 4.67 lakhs in 1915. The output of lead was 13,790 tons valued at Rs. 48.27 lakhs as against 13,519 tons valued at Rs. 47.42 lakhs. The remainder of the lead produced in the Province came from the Southern Shan States, the output being 144 tons of ore worth Rs. 4,121. All the zinc ore produced in the Province came from the Bawdwin mines, where zinc is found together with silver and lead. The yield of zinc ore rose from 87 tons valued at Rs. 2,610 in 1915 to 3,198 tons valued at Rs. 87,396 in 1916. No copper ore was produced from Bawdwin as against 875 tons valued at Rs. 35 lakh in the previous year. The output from the Jade mines in Myitkyina was 3,783 cwt. valued at Rs. 1.4 lakhs as against 3,693 cwt. valued at Rs. 1.9 lakhs in the previous year. Amber is extracted in the Hukong valley. The output, which amounted to 63 cwt. in 1910, dropped from 11 cwt. in 1915 to 5 cwt. in 1916. A rise in price lessened the decline in the value of the output, which was from Rs. 2,990 to Rs. 2,360. Molybdenite is found in small quantities in Tavoy and Mergui and platinum in Myitkyina. About 1,000 tons of antimony ore worth Rs. 7,500 were extracted in the Amherst District, where it is reported that large deposits were discovered in an area at present too difficult of access for profitable working to be possible.

CHAP. IV—
Production and
Disposition.

109. Over 219,000 tons of granite valued at Rs. 2½ lakhs were produced as against 122,000 tons valued at a lakh and a half of rupees in 1915. The amount and value of the output of gravel decreased from 108,000 tons valued at Rs. 6.69 lakhs in 1915 to 105,000 tons valued at Rs. 59 lakhs. The output of limestone decreased by 20 per cent. to 129,000 tons. The quantity and value of the output of laterite in 1916 were 222,000 tons and Rs. 2½ lakhs, as compared with 228,000 tons and Rs. 3 lakhs in 1915. Statistics for the output of pottery clay show that 423 tons valued at Rs. 1,269 were extracted, as against 629 tons worth Rs. 1,980 in 1915.

Quarry
stones and
clay.

110. The receipts from fees, rents and royalties on petroleum, rubies, jade and amber decreased by over six and a half lakhs of rupees to Rs. 32,25,475, but they exceeded the collections for 1914-15 by over two lakhs of rupees. Receipts from petroleum declined by over seven and a half lakhs of rupees. An increase in collections on petroleum in Magwe from Rs. 25,60,664 to Rs. 27,79,672, and a decrease in Myingyan from Rs. 11,07,375 to Rs. 99,814, are due in part, to the transfer of the Sale Township, including the Singu Oil-field, to the former District with effect from the 1st July 1916, in consequence of which all fees, rents and royalties payable after that date on the petroleum produced in that oil-field were credited to the Magwe District. The receipts for the two Districts combined fell from Rs. 36,68,039 to Rs. 28,79,486, owing to decreases in the output from the Yonangyaung and Singu Oil-fields. Receipts from petroleum remained practically stationary in the Minbu District, while in Pakokku they increased from Rs. 59,525 to Rs. 84,795, on account of an advance of 2½ million gallons in the production of

Revenue
from mines
and quar-
ries.

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

crude oil. Fees from *taifusa* oil-wells and acreage fees for prospecting licenses fell slightly in this District. An increase from Rs. 3,828 to Rs. 12,142 in Thayetmyo was due to the issue of several prospecting licenses for oil, in consequence of the report that oil had been struck in a deep bore on a concession near Minhla. In Myitkyina the revenue derived from fees on licenses to collect royalty on jade-stone showed a further increase by Rs. 37,300 to Rs. 85,500. Receipts under this head depend largely upon the state of affairs in China. In the Ruby Mines District the recovery of the trade in rubies, which occurred in the previous year, continued and is indicated by an increase of Rs. 52,266 in receipts from royalties on precious stones. The figures are still much lower than in 1912-13 and 1913-14. Receipts from fees, rents and royalties on "other minerals" increased by Rs. 1,55,820 or 64 per cent. to Rs. 3,98,963 and are the highest yet recorded. In the Tenasserim Division alone there was an advance of Rs. 1,58,606, so that the figures for the rest of the Province represent a decline of Rs. 2,786. The Tavoy receipts rose from Rs. 1,59,836 to Rs. 2,78,780, chiefly on account of an increase of over a lakh of rupees in the amount credited as royalty on wolfram. The price per unit has remained constant at 55 shillings since August 1915, and the rate of royalty was raised from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 per ton with effect from the 1st January 1916, since when it has remained unaltered. The revival of the tin industry is reflected in the figures for royalty paid on that mineral, which show an increase from Rs. 207 to Rs. 2,228. Acreage fees rose considerably on account of the increase from 117 to 260 in the number of prospecting licenses issued. Increases of Rs. 18,536 and Rs. 16,355 in Mergui and Thaton, respectively, were mainly due to the increased output of wolfram and to the larger number of licenses issued for prospecting that mineral. In Thaton allowance must also be made for the increase in tin-production which resulted from the discovery of tin deposits near the Thaton-Martaban Railway. In Mergui receipts from royalties on tin advanced but slightly. The tin industry there is largely in the hands of Chinese workers. In the Amherst District a rise from Rs. 2,900 to Rs. 7,467 is explained by the increased activity of prospectors for minerals, which resulted in a considerable advance in the amounts credited as acreage fees in respect of prospecting licenses issued under the Mining Rules. The issue of several licenses for the extraction of clay and one license for prospecting lead accounts for an increase of Rs. 1,373 in Yamethin. In Pakokku many cultivators who had been forced by the poor season in 1915-16 to resort to pottery and brickmaking returned to their ordinary occupation in the year of report. Receipts from license fees for the extraction of clay for pottery fell in consequence by Rs. 538. A decline in the price obtained for the steatite mine of Sidoktaya is responsible for a decrease from Rs. 2,355 to Rs. 1,593 in Minbu, while a fall of Rs. 1,418 or 46 per cent. in Katha is explained by the abandonment of several concessions which had been granted under prospecting license in the previous year.

Manufactures.

Principal
industries.

III. The vast majority of the indigenous population is agricultural, and manufacturing industries depend for the necessary supplies of labour on Indian immigrants. The number of persons supported by the various manufacturing industries of the Province are given in the Census Report of 1911. The only new departure during the year was a paint factory started on a small and more or less experimental scale. The most notable industrial feature was the increase in the number of rice-mills which erected plant for boiling unhusked rice. The extension of this industry in the last few years has been remarkable, and now the majority of the rice-mills outside Rangoon are manufacturing cured rice. The principal industries continued to be rice-milling, saw-milling, the extraction and refining of petroleum and transport. In the year of report rice-milling accounted for three-fifths of the number of registered factories in the Province and for half of the total number of operatives employed. The four industries combined account for nearly six-sevenths of the industrial population. Indeed the only other industry with an average daily number of persons employed above 2,000 is the cotton-

ginning industry. The indigenous native industries, such as the manufacture of cigars, pots, mats and umbrellas, *ngapi*, shoes and carts are household industries and call for no remark.

CHAP. IV—
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Factories.

112. The number of registered factories at the end of 1916 was 516, an increase of 36 over the corresponding figure for the previous year. Twenty-three factories were closed during the year. The average daily total number of persons employed was 68,362, of whom 4,682 were women and 542 children. The corresponding figures for 1915 were 66,352, of whom 3,601 were women and 617 children; and for 1914, 64,601, of whom 4,049 were women and 850 children. The fall in the number of children employed is due to the substitution of women for girls for picking over cotton in the Sagaing District. In the year of report the increase in the number of women is due to their employment in the rice-boiling industry. There was no change during the year in the general rate of wages for any class of industry. There was no abnormal feature in the sanitary conditions of mills and factories during the year. As it appeared that white-washing was of no assistance in keeping walls of galvanized iron clean, an order was passed whereby whitewashing is made compulsory only in cases in which the Inspector of Factories specifically orders it. Some trouble arose in dealing with the nuisance arising from the stagnant water run off from the pits in which unhusked rice has been soaked in the manufacture of boiled-rice. Inquiries are being made as to the best methods of coping with this nuisance. In the case of several recently erected mills orders were passed requiring fencing to be made. Guards have also been required for the lower halves of circular saws on rack benches. Rules were issued during the year making obligatory the provision of safe and convenient access to all parts of machinery in a mill. These rules were specially designed to meet the dangerous conditions which are frequently found in connection with the oiling arrangements for the tops of the elevators in rice-mills. The number of fatal accidents that occurred during the year was 22, the same as in the previous year. The number of serious accidents fell from 121 to 99, and the number of minor accidents from 316 to 290. The number of prosecutions and convictions for offences under the Factories Act was 10 as compared with 14 in 1915. Of 493 factories actually working 396 were visited by the Inspector of Factories.

Trade.

113. Statistical comparison by values of the trade of the year with that of previous years is somewhat difficult and misleading, as the values of goods imported during the year of report have, in comparison with previous years, been considerably inflated by the prevalent high prices of commodities. The Customs Department maintains two series of weighted index numbers, one for imports and one for exports. Taking 100 as representing the general level of prices in the triennium 1908-09 to 1900-01, the general level of prices for imported articles had increased to 133.2 in 1913-14, to 146.1 in 1915-16 and to 194.8 in 1916-17, while that for exported articles was 127.5 in 1913-14, 124.4 in 1915-16 and 135.8 in 1916-17. Nevertheless it is beyond question that the trade of the Province really made an appreciable recovery in 1916-17 from the setback which it received as the immediate result of the outbreak of war. The aggregate value of the seaborne trade of the Province increased by Rs. 12,48.25 lakhs to Rs. 69,87.53 lakhs or by 22 per cent. as compared with the total trade of 1915-16, and reached a figure that has hitherto been exceeded only in the two particularly prosperous years 1912-13 and 1913-14. The combined value of the import and export trade in private merchandise with foreign countries and India rose by Rs. 7,40.71 lakhs to Rs. 59,44.69 lakhs or 14 per cent.

Foreign imports of merchandise increased by Rs. 1,09.04 lakhs to Rs. 11,85.64 lakhs or 10 per cent. The United Kingdom's contribution rose by Rs. 75.51 lakhs to Rs. 6,58.95 lakhs, or 13 per cent., in spite of abnormally high freight-rates, the dearth of tonnage, and the withdrawal of labour from productive industries to the colours and munition works. Japan, enjoying the advantage of having a direct

Maritime
trade: total
value and
revenue.

Chart IV.—
Produce-
tion and
Distribution.

line of steamers, and being free from many of the difficulties that hamper other foreign exporters to Burma, was successful in further increasing her export trade to Burma, the total value of which rose by 34 per cent. to Rs. 1,46.68 lakhs in 1916-17 from Rs. 1,10.90 lakhs in 1915-16, which figure was almost twice that of the preceding year, and appreciably more than that of any previous year. Imports from the United States of America advanced by Rs. 11.80 lakhs or 10.5 per cent. to Rs. 1,23.15 lakhs. In spite of the difficulties occasioned by war conditions the export trade of the Province was distinctly satisfactory. The total value of exports (excluding re-exports) to foreign countries expanded by Rs. 4,56.84 lakhs to Rs. 19,47.57 lakhs, or by 31 per cent, while the export trade to India at least showed no falling-off as compared with the previous year. The balance of trade in the combined foreign and coasting external trade of the Province (private merchandise and Government stores), as represented by the excess in the value of exports over that of imports, amounted to Rs. 16,15.98 lakhs during the year of report, as against Rs. 13,43.52 lakhs in the previous year. The amount by which the exports of treasure exceeded the imports of treasure was Rs. 17.64 lakhs: this, when added to that representing merchandise and Government stores, shows a balance of Rs. 16,33.62 lakhs on the export side as compared with that of Rs. 12,72.35 lakhs in the previous year.

The total gross receipts of customs duty were Rs. 1,68.57 lakhs, an increase of 26 per cent. on the corresponding amount of Rs. 1,33.28 lakhs in the previous year. Import duty (excluding that on salt) rose from Rs. 66.75 lakhs to Rs. 89.05 lakhs and export duty from Rs. 51.59 lakhs to Rs. 61.88 lakhs. The gross receipts in 1914-15 had been Rs. 1,38.99 lakhs and in 1913-14, the last complete year before the war, Rs. 2,03.21 lakhs. The increase in 1916-17 was due to the general increase in the rates of duty which came into force in March 1916 and to the enhanced value of goods rather than to any increase in importations. Import duty (excluding that derived from salt) advanced by 33 per cent. The increase was general and applied to all goods except liquors and petroleum. The duty derived from salt increased by 18 per cent. The gross duty realized at Rangoon advanced by Rs. 35.30 lakhs to Rs. 1,58.16 lakhs or 30 per cent. and the net revenue by Rs. 35.40 lakhs to Rs. 1,55.11 lakhs or 30 per cent. as compared with the previous year's figures. In addition a sum of Rs. 5.64 lakhs was collected at Rangoon on account of rice shipped at Bassein and Moulmein as against Rs. 6.97 lakhs realized in 1915-16. The gross customs receipts at ports other than Rangoon were Rs. 10.41 lakhs, as against Rs. 11.43 lakhs in 1915-16, and Rs. 15.19 lakhs in 1914-15. Of the total receipts, Rs. 9.71 lakhs were realized on account of export duty. The collections at the various subordinate ports were:—Bassein Rs. 5.60 lakhs, Moulmein Rs. 2.42 lakhs, Akyab Rs. 1.78 lakhs, Tavoy Rs. .37 lakh, Mergui Rs. .18 lakh and Victoria Point Rs. .06 lakh.

Rangoon
trade: total
figures.

114. The total value of all articles, excluding treasure, imported from foreign countries into Rangoon, was Rs. 11,73.90 lakhs, as against Rs. 10,64.07 lakhs in 1915-16 and Rs. 15,67.76 lakhs in 1913-14. Imports from India were valued at Rs. 9,01.95 lakhs, as against Rs. 7,71.83 lakhs in 1915-16. Exports from Rangoon to foreign countries, excluding treasure, were valued at Rs. 16,44.63 lakhs, as against Rs. 12,05.56 lakhs, in 1915-16 and Rs. 17,23.88 lakhs in 1913-14. Exports to India were valued at Rs. 13,61.82 lakhs, as against Rs. 13,96.14 lakhs in 1915-16.

Of the total foreign sea-borne trade of the Province, Rangoon took 89.97 per cent. as against 88.43 per cent. in 1915-16 and 82.72 per cent. in 1913-14. The share of Rangoon in the Indian and Provincial trade was much the same as in the previous year, being 82.47 per cent. and 42.25 per cent. respectively as against 83.74 per cent. and 43.64 per cent. in 1915-16.

Rangoon
trade: foreign im-
ports.

115. The year was a prosperous one in the cotton trade and imports classified as "Textiles—Cotton" increased in value from Rs. 4,16.45 lakhs to Rs. 5,76.11 lakhs, which figure represents 27 per cent. of the aggregate value of private merchandise imported into the Province during the year. Prices ruled abnormally high, but the market responded well to the advance. The most striking feature

of the year was the extended operation of Indian goods in the local market. Lancashire's misfortune in the matter of high cost of production and shipping difficulties was India's opportunity, and Indian business shows a substantial increase. Imports of twist and yarn rose by 2,596,190 lbs. to 14,931,025 lbs. and their value rose by Rs. 26.40 lakhs to Rs. 29.39 lakhs. In the previous year 1,634,856 lbs., valued at Rs. 16.41 lakhs, were imported from the United Kingdom, and 10,668,014 lbs. valued at Rs. 46.32 lakhs from India. In 1916-17 the United Kingdom sent 1,098,173 lbs. valued at Rs. 14.27 lakhs and India 13,823,652 lbs. worth Rs. 74.98 lakhs. Imports of foreign cotton piece-goods declined by over 4 million yards, or 4 per cent., but rose in value by Rs. 73.94 lakhs, or 31 per cent. Importations from India of cotton piece-goods of Indian manufacture rose by 12,666,782 yards and Rs. 38.09 lakhs to 43,804,126 yards, with a value of Rs. 98.79 lakhs, surpassing the previous year's record figures. Importations of silk textile goods fell in value from Rs. 52.47 lakhs to Rs. 44.26 lakhs. Restricted freights, high prices, and the general increase in the cost of living are responsible for the decline. The total value of imports of woollen goods rose by Rs. 6.19 lakhs, or 73 per cent., to Rs. 14.64 lakhs, the United Kingdom's contribution being Rs. 12.80 lakhs or 87 per cent. of the total as against Rs. 6.78 lakhs or 80 per cent. in the previous year. The total value of importations of articles of apparel rose by Rs. 3.79 lakhs, or 56 per cent., to Rs. 10.59 lakhs. The United Kingdom supplied 60 per cent. of the total as against 2 per cent. last year while Japan increased her share from 10 per cent. to 27 per cent. Imports of *Haberdashery* and *Millinery* rose by Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 23.08 lakhs of which total Japan was responsible for Rs. 13.81 lakhs. Imports of boots and shoes increased substantially, 459,808 pairs valued at Rs. 11.70 lakhs being imported, as against 280,910 pairs valued at Rs. 6.40 lakhs in 1915-16. The contribution of the United Kingdom amounted to 82 per cent. of the total. The value of *Metals* and *Ores* imported declined from Rs. 1,35.85 lakhs to Rs. 1,20.76 lakhs. The decline in quantity was much more marked being from 53,289 tons to 29,451 tons. The United States of America and the United Kingdom supplied practically the whole, their contributions being 53 per cent. and 43 per cent. respectively. Importations of articles of *Hardware* rose in value from Rs. 26.53 lakhs to Rs. 34.74 lakhs. The largest supplies came from the United Kingdom, being valued at Rs. 21.68 lakhs as against Rs. 16.42 lakhs; Japan took second place with Rs. 6.61 lakhs as against Rs. 2.08 lakhs, the United States of America following with Rs. 5.01 lakhs as against Rs. 6.41 lakhs in 1915-16. Agricultural and other implements and tools, buckets, builders' hardware and safes and strong boxes were the main lines from the United Kingdom. Japan seems to have captured the trade in enamelled ironware her share representing 90 per cent. with a total value of Rs. 3.46 lakhs as against Rs. 1.48 lakhs in the previous year. Metal lamps came largely from Japan and the United States of America, and most of the glass lamps were supplied by the former country. An increase of Rs. 6.55 lakhs was recorded under the sub-head "other sorts," the bulk of such miscellaneous articles being consigned from the United Kingdom. There was a decrease of importations of *Provisions* and *Oilman's Stores* from Rs. 57.68 lakhs to Rs. 47.45 lakhs. The largest contributor to this trade was the United Kingdom with a total value of Rs. 27.09 lakhs representing 57 per cent. of the imports as against Rs. 30.36 lakhs or 53 per cent. in the previous year. The shares of the other principal supplying countries were:—the Straits Settlements 12 per cent., Holland 9 per cent., Hongkong 6 per cent. and the United States of America 5 per cent. There were increases in bacon and ham, cheese and vinegar, but all other articles showed a decrease. The importation of butter from the United Kingdom showed a very appreciable increase. The arrivals of lard fell. Milk, condensed or preserved, declined by 2,495,521 lbs.; the United Kingdom, Holland, Norway and Switzerland were the principal sources of supply. The decrease under the heading of canned and bottled provisions was fairly general, the biggest difference being noticed in the imports of sardines from Portugal. The total value of provisions and oilman's stores imported coastwise advanced by Rs. 12.25 lakhs to Rs. 71.80 lakhs or by 21 per cent., the greater portion being of Indian produce. The principal items were:—Dried meat (mainly from Bengal), ghi (chiefly from Bengal), butter (principally

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STORES.

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BUDGETING.

from Bombay) and eggs (chiefly from Chittagong). There was a further decline in the importation of *Fish* (excluding canned fish) from 239,129 cwt. valued at Rs. 48.14 lakhs in 1915-16 to 222,152 cwt. valued at Rs. 48.20 lakhs. Foreign imports chiefly from the Straits Settlements fell by 12 per cent. in volume and 22 per cent. in value. Tonnage was found somehow to bring in more salt than has ever previously been brought into the country during an official year and the total imports advanced by 17,095 tons and Rs. 15.69 lakhs or by 29 per cent. in volume and 62 per cent. in value. Three full cargoes came each from Spain, Aden and Port Said and 13 small consignments from Liverpool by regular liners. The largest supplier was Spain, whose consignments represented 29 per cent. of the total, Aden, Egypt and the United Kingdom each contributing 26, 23 and 21 per cent. respectively. Practically the whole quantity imported went into bond and, by the end of the year of report, all available bonding space was occupied, there being in store practically a whole year's supply for the Province. Importations of sugar declined from 463,947 cwt. valued at Rs. 71.83 lakhs to 255,715 cwt. valued at Rs. 41.48 lakhs. The falling-off is mainly due to smaller direct imports from Java, owing to the demand from the United Kingdom and shortage of tonnage. The total imports of liquors declined by 313,655 gallons and Rs. 1.29 lakhs in value, or 32 per cent. in quantity and 4 per cent. in value, to 669,483 gallons valued at Rs. 32.39 lakhs. Importations of ales were lower than in any year during the previous fourteen years. The United Kingdom supplied 74 per cent. and Japan 23 per cent. of the whole. The quantity of spirits fell by 46,560 gallons to 193,405 gallons but the value rose by Rs. 51 lakh to Rs. 18.92 lakhs. Importations of wines rose by 3,376 gallons and Rs. .63 lakh to 28,341 gallons valued at Rs. 2.38 lakhs. Foreign imports of *tobacco* fell by 24,784 lbs. to 627,113 lbs. but there was a rise in the value declared. The coasting imports (Indian and foreign produce) advanced by 173,248 lbs. and Rs. .75 lakh to 15,076,110 lbs. valued at Rs. 39.07 lakhs. There was an advance in the importation of mineral oils by 2,254,573 gallons and Rs. 3.20 lakhs, or 44 per cent. in quantity and 28 per cent. in value.

The value of motor cars and motor cycles imported was Rs. 23.21 lakhs, or 82 per cent. in excess of the previous record figures for 1913-14. The number of motor cars imported was 560, as against 296 in the previous year. Among the articles classified as *Miscellaneous* there was an increase in the importations of *arms, ammunition and military stores, of building and engineering materials, of chemicals and chemical preparations, of cutlery, of bicycles, of earthenware, and of instruments and apparatus*. There were decreases under *fruits and vegetables, matches, parts of ships, soap, betelnuts, tea and umbrellas*.

Rangoon
trade :
exports
of rice.

116. The value of the combined export trade (Indian and foreign), of the Province, in rice, husked and unhusked, during the year of report was greater by Rs. 2,45.01 lakhs than that of the previous year and its value, Rs. 22,16.8 lakhs represented 59 per cent. of the aggregate value of private merchandise (excluding re-exports) exported to foreign countries and India. The total quantity exported was 2,243,204 tons as against 2,191,769 tons in 1915-16, 2,348,270 tons in 1914-15, 2,744,236 tons in 1913-14 and 2,327,990 tons in 1912-13. During the year the demand was good and the total quantity exported out of Burma was 22,43,204 tons, showing an increase of 51,435 tons or 2 per cent. as compared with the previous year's figure. Notwithstanding the scarcity of tonnage, abnormally high freights and restrictions placed on exports, the foreign trade was well maintained, shipments aggregating 1,215,277 tons, while India consumed, 1,027,927 tons, representing 54 per cent. and 46 per cent. respectively of the total exports. As compared with the figures of 1915-16, foreign exports rose by 27 per cent., while shipments to India declined by 16 per cent. The freight market was high throughout the year. At the close of 1915-16 the charter rates to the United Kingdom were as high as 175s. a ton, the rate for the four years previous to the war averaging 25s. 10d. per ton. About June the rate dropped to 150s. owing to the release by Government of several transports for single voyages with rice cargoes. There was a rise in September to 165s. and this rate continued till November; but in December there was a further rise

to 250s. Rates then dropped to 180-185s. As tonnage became scarcer the rate advanced until 280s. was quoted at the end of January 1917; but it fell to 250s. in March. Freight to Marseilles and Mediterranean ports ruled at 175-200s. The rates to India and the Straits Settlements were also high. The year opened with freight to Calcutta at Rs. 17-8-0 dropping to Rs. 13 in May and advancing to Rs. 15-8-0 during June-August, being some 200 per cent. higher than the rate current during the corresponding period of the previous year. The market then became easier, fluctuating between Rs. 8-8-0 and Rs. 12-8-0, touching Rs. 15 in January and dropping to Rs. 10 in March. Rates to Bombay opened at Rs. 25 per ton or over 100 per cent. higher than in the previous year. In June there was a rise to Rs. 30 and this rate continued till the close of the year. Freight to Penang and Singapore were at Rs. 2-4-0 to Rs. 2-6-0 per bag and Rs. 2-8-0 per bag respectively as against 8 annas and 10 annas respectively in the previous year. With more steamers available there was a drop to Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 1-14-0 in May and to Re. 1 and Rs. 1-2-0 in August. From that time there was a steady rise until Rs. 2-2-0 and Rs. 2-6-0 respectively were reached at the end of March.

The United Kingdom was again the largest purchaser of rice in the foreign trade, her takings increasing by 26,656 tons to 316,429 tons, the highest yet recorded. The Straits Settlements came next with 252,882 tons, showing an increase of 69,948 tons: much of this was, however, despatched to Java and Sumatra ports by the agents of Chinese shippers, with the result that the orders restricting exports to the Dutch East Indies were to some extent circumvented. Ceylon broke all previous records, taking 192,868 tons or 118,161 tons more than in the previous year. This increase is due partly to the increased use of Burma rice for the purpose of feeding estate coolies and partly owing to tonnage and other difficulties in drawing from her usual suppliers—Calcutta and Saigon. Shipments to the Dutch East Indies advanced by 72,345 tons to 169,643 tons, the highest yet recorded for direct shipments. The chief cause was the closing of the Saigon market, though a good deal of the business appears to have been somewhat speculative. Holland took 28,922 tons more than in 1915-16; most of this was shipped by the Belgian Relief Committee. Switzerland for the first time appeared as direct buyer. Shipments to Mauritius rose by 8,542 tons to 16,489 tons. No business was done with Japan, owing presumably to her own rice crop being plentiful. China drew much larger supplies, due, it is said, to the failure of crops in the country round Amoy. Exports to Cuba rose by 28,071 tons to 75,451 tons: these exports are solely due to the German source of supply being closed to Cuba and provide an illustration of a market, which, *prima facie*, British trade should be able to wrest from the hands of our enemies after the war. Rangoon's share of the total foreign exports was 86 per cent. as against 81 per cent. in the previous year. Bassein came next with 10 per cent. as against 16 per cent. and Moulemein followed with 4 per cent. as against 2 per cent. in 1915-16. Shipments to India declined by 86,946 tons to 869,170 tons or by 9 per cent., owing to there being generally speaking good crops throughout the country. The total exports of rice bran from the Province declined by 58,682 tons and Rs. 25'92 lakhs to 143,888 tons with a value of Rs. 37'05 lakhs, due principally to the scarcity of tonnage. Prices ruled lower, averaging Rs. 26 as against Rs. 31 per ton in the preceding year. The United Kingdom again took the bulk.

117. Despite high freights and shortage of tonnage, the export trade in teak did fairly well during the year. A total quantity of 125,648 cubic tons valued at Rs. 1,61'86 lakhs was exported from Rangoon as against 101,202 cubic tons valued at Rs. 1,38'48 lakhs in 1915-16. Foreign exports decreased by about 20 per cent., as compared with the previous year's figures, but Indian exports increased by 40 per cent. Exports to the United Kingdom and Australia declined but those to Ceylon, South Africa and the United States of America all showed an increase. No shipments were made to France, Italy or Japan. The increase in the exports to India was due to greater activity in the Indian markets and fairly regular opportunities of shipment. Demand has increased owing to the needs of the Military Works Department; and the scarcity of metal building materials has also stimulated the demand for teak for house-building. In correspondence with

Rangoon
 trade:
 exports
 of other
 commodities.

Chap. IV.— an increase in the output of petroleum in the Province to a figure higher than any previously recorded, the export trade in *mineral oils* was greater than in any previous year. A total quantity of 155,878,906 gallons valued at Rs. 5,16.69 lakhs was exported, as against 147,001,406 gallons valued at Rs. 4,68.56 lakhs in the previous year. In exports of benzene, benzol and other motor spirit there was a drop of 553,113 gallons or 2 per cent. in the foreign trade. The United Kingdom took 96 per cent. and the balance went to France. The home demand for motor spirit was very strong throughout the year and an increase would undoubtedly have been shown but for the shortage of tonnage. Thanks to the increased requirements of the Indian market and of the military authorities in India and Mesopotamia, exports to India advanced by 2,559,190 gallons to 6,630,724 gallons and by Rs. 22.56 lakhs to Rs. 66.30 lakhs, showing a rise of 63 per cent. in quantity and 52 per cent. in value. Bengal took the bulk. In this case also the trade was hampered by difficulties of freight. Shipments to the Provincial ports were more than double the total of the previous year. Exports of kerosene oil to foreign countries were practically *nil*, but the Indian exports were the highest hitherto recorded. This was due to the cessation during the year of imports into India of oil from the Dutch East Indies, and also, in a lesser degree, to the freight difficulties experienced by American shippers. Exports of other kinds of mineral oils to foreign countries decreased by 89 per cent. in quantity and 55 per cent. in value. The principal decline was in Navy fuel oil sent to the United Kingdom. Lubricating oil fell from 221,659 gallons to 181,184 gallons owing to lack of freight and the difficulty in securing casks. Less went to the Straits Settlements and Australia, whereas more was taken by Ceylon and Persia. An increase of 1,588,630 gallons and Rs. 2.79 lakhs was recorded in exports to India chiefly under jute-batching and lubricating oil. Exports of *paraffin-wax* showed a substantial advance due to an increased demand for wax for making munitions in the United Kingdom and the United States of America and the withdrawal of restrictions on export to certain countries. The total foreign exports expanded by 84,574 cwt. and Rs. 20.45 lakhs to 4,9,525 cwt. with a value of Rs. 97.50 lakhs, which figures are the highest recorded. Japan took about 25 per cent. of the total exports. The export trade in candles showed an improvement during the year. Exports to foreign countries rose by 125,355 lbs. and Rs. 45 lakh to 6,277,420 lbs. valued at Rs. 17.73 lakhs. Shipments to India fell by 285,968 lbs. and Rs. 74 lakh to 4,959,299 lbs. with a value of Rs. 14.04 lakhs. Owing to the continuance of restrictions on export, a further decline took place in shipments of hides and skins to foreign ports. The quantity exported was 83,742 cwt. valued at Rs. 59.34 lakhs, as against 86,465 cwt. valued at Rs. 56.84 lakhs in the previous year. Owing to a shortage of labour in the tanneries of the United Kingdom large quantities, which otherwise would have gone to the United Kingdom, went to America. Buffalo hides declined by 1,454 cwt. to 15,848 cwt., but advanced in value by Rs. 2.44 lakhs to Rs. 8.80 lakhs. The United Kingdom took 11,474 cwt. as against 14,395 cwt., whereas shipments to the United States of America rose from 160 cwt. to 2,408 cwt. Cow hides decreased by 1,241 cwt. but the value was practically the same as in the previous year. France, taking 25,731 cwt. was the largest customer, the United States of America coming next, and the United Kingdom with 9,188 cwt. coming third. Italy's takings dropped from 20,133 cwt. to 6,476 cwt., while Spain's rose from 832 cwt. to 3,150 cwt. Japan took 2,222 cwt. as against 9 cwt. in 1915-16. The total exportations of *raw cotton* increased in quantity from 141,603 cwt. in 1915-16 to 145,232 cwt. There was a marked increase in value from Rs. 41.01 lakhs to Rs. 66.53 lakhs. The total foreign shipments rose by 6,282 cwt. and Rs. 21.38 lakhs or 6 per cent. in volume and 70 per cent. in value to 111,117 cwt. valued at Rs. 52.05 lakhs. Practically the whole of this went to the United Kingdom. Exports to Japan declined from 20,693 cwt. to 656 cwt., probably owing to her being able to import cotton to better advantage from America. Prices were high during the year, owing to there being a short crop in America. The trade in *cotton seed* was again almost non-existent. Exports of cotton-seed oil, however, to the amount of 74,272 gallons valued at Rs. 1.32 lakhs, went to the United Kingdom. Exports of the by-product cotton-seed oil-cake aggregated 63,850 cwt., valued at Rs. 1.75 lakhs, as

against 71,399 cwt. worth Rs. 2'13 lakhs in 1915-16. All the oil-cake went to the United Kingdom. The export trade in *groundnuts* recovered from the collapse of the previous year and 43,160 cwt. were exported, the great bulk of which went to Hongkong. Exports of groundnut oil showed a very marked increase, the total foreign shipments reaching the record figure of 493,468 gallons with a value of Rs. 8'48 lakhs, mainly to the United Kingdom. In spite of the fact that ground nut oil was produced so largely in the Province, 8,593 gallons were imported, chiefly from Hongkong, as against 6,229 gallons in 1915-16, while the importations from India increased by 582,320 gallons and Rs. 10'57 lakhs to 996,572 gallons with a value of Rs. 17'87 lakhs, all of which came from Madras. The general shortage of food in the United Kingdom was mainly responsible for the increase in the export of *beans* to foreign countries the total quantity rising by 33,445 tons or by 98 per cent. to 67,629 tons. The United Kingdom took 88 per cent. of the total quantity exported, her share being 56,901 tons as against 31,288 tons in the previous year. Japan took 4,836 tons as against 692 tons. The United States of America, after a lapse of two years, reappeared as a customer and took 3,100 tons. Owing to the requirements for war purposes the demand for *rubber* has been very active. The total foreign exports from the Province were the highest yet recorded aggregating 2,301,157 lbs. with a value of Rs. 43'93 lakhs as compared with 1,285,984 lbs. valued at Rs. 30'69 lakhs, an increase of 79 per cent. in volume and 43 per cent. in value. The average declared value per pound fell from Rs. 2-6-2 to Rs. 1-14-6. The United Kingdom absorbed the bulk of the total quantity exported, taking 1,683,907 lbs. as against 1,051,008 lbs. in 1915-16, while the Straits Settlements took 430,908 lbs. as against 180,432 lbs. and Ceylon 91,118 lbs. as against 18,704 lbs. in the previous year. Export is prohibited to all destinations other than the United Kingdom and British Possessions, but 93,791 lbs. were allowed to be exported under license to America. The export trade in *cutch* received a set-back during the year of report after the remarkable advance it made in the previous year. The total exports to foreign countries and India fell, by 78,780 cwt. and Rs. 12'80 lakhs, to 91,544 cwt. with a value of Rs. 17'81 lakhs, or by 46 per cent. in volume and 42 per cent. in value. Exports to foreign countries dropped, by 85,880 cwt. and Rs. 13'78 lakhs, to 58,332 cwt. valued at Rs. 10'12 lakhs. The Indian demand, however, was much better, the total exports advancing by 7,100 cwt. and Rs. '97 lakh to 33,212 cwt. with a value of Rs. 7'68 lakhs or by 27 per cent. in quantity and 15 per cent. in value. Bengal was the largest buyer. Only 74 cwt. of *lac* valued at Rs. '04 lakh were exported to foreign countries as against 93 cwt. in the previous year. Shipments to India, however increased by 4,994 cwt. and Rs. 5'57 lakhs to 24,338 cwt. with a value of Rs. 8'52 lakhs. Prices ruled abnormally high the average rising from Rs. 15 to Rs. 35 per cwt. Exports of *lead* to foreign countries declined by 495 tons to 10,351 tons in volume but rose in value by Rs. 18'05 lakhs to Rs. 53'89 lakhs. The bulk went to Ceylon for tea packing and other industrial purposes. Russia was the next largest customer taking 2,782 tons as against 964 tons in 1915-16. The whole of this went to Vladivostok for the manufacture of war material. Exports to the United Kingdom declined by 3,181 tons to 1,915 tons. The more effective control exercised by Government over the methods of working *wolfram ore* at the mines has resulted in an increase of some 73 per cent. in the quantity exported as compared with the previous year's figures. There is every prospect of next year's figures showing a substantial increase in output.

The following figures of exports show the expansion of the industry —

					Tons,	Rs. Lakhs,
1912-13	...	...	...	...	1,763	24'29
1913-14	...	...	...	...	1,879	27'21
1914-15	...	...	...	...	1,916	26'37
1915-16	...	...	...	...	2,629	53'10
1916-17	...	...	...	...	4,542	1,02'58

Of the total shipments, the United Kingdom took 4,409 tons and the rest went to the Straits Settlements (Penang) mostly for treatment there prior to

CHAP. IV.— re-exportation to the United Kingdom. The necessary plant for separation has now been established in Tavoy and shipment to the Straits Settlements has recently been prohibited.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Exports of *sine ore* during the past five years were as follows:—

					Tons.	Rs. Lakhs.
1913-13	...	...	...	...	91	06
1913-14	...	...	...	...	7,627	471
1914-15	...	...	...	...	4,387	342
1915-16	...	...	...	...	87	05
1916-17	...	...	...	...	3,198	236

Japan took 2,997 tons and the United Kingdom the balance. The ore contains a varying percentage of lead which requires to be separated, and shipments to the United Kingdom have so far been made only for the purpose of experimental treatment. Exports of *jadestone* surpassed the previous year's record figures by 1,245 cwt. and Rs. 5'84 lakhs, showing a total of 5,626 cwt. with a value of Rs. 11'31 lakhs. The value per cwt. advanced from Rs. 125 to Rs. 200 or by 60 per cent. As usual Hongkong took practically all.

Distribution of Rangoon trade.

118. In 1913-14 the last complete year before the war the United Kingdom's share in the total foreign trade of Rangoon was 36'51 per cent. In 1915-16 it was 47'33 per cent. and in the year of report 44'40 per cent. Of the total imports in 1916-17 55'94 per cent. came from the United Kingdom as against 54'40 per cent. in 1915-16. Of the total exports 36'20 per cent. went to the United Kingdom as against 41'12 per cent. The share of the British Empire (including the United Kingdom) in the total trade amounted to 70'46 per cent. as against 69'40 per cent. in 1915-16. Imports from the British Empire rose from 64 per cent. to 66'99 per cent. of the total imports, and exports to the British Empire fell from 74'15 per cent. to 72'93 per cent. of the total exports. Noteworthy variations were a rise in the Straits Settlements' share and a fall in Hongkong's share of the total imports, a marked rise in Ceylon's share and a fall in Egypt's share of the total exports. Foreign European countries claimed 6'65 per cent. of the total trade as against 9'19 per cent. in 1915-16 and 24'96 per cent. in 1913-14. Imports from foreign European countries were 7'59 per cent. of the total imports as against 8'50 per cent. in the previous year, while exports to foreign European countries were 5'99 per cent. of the total exports as against 9'80 per cent. A sharp rise in exports to Holland and the appearance of Switzerland among the countries to which Rangoon exports are the most outstanding features of the year. Foreign Asiatic countries claimed 14'36 per cent. of the total trade as against 13'72 per cent. in the previous year. Imports from Java fell from 5'08 per cent. of the total imports to 15 per cent. Imports from Japan were 12'67 per cent. of the total imports as against 10'39 per cent. while exports to Japan dropped from 2'27 per cent. of the total exports to 2'17 per cent. Exports to Sumatra and Java increased markedly. Trade with the United States of America amounted to 5'52 per cent. of the total trade as against 5'57 per cent. last year.

Subordinate ports.

119. The percentage of the total Foreign, Indian, and Provincial trade of the Province which fell to Rangoon was 84'18 as against 83'61 in 1915-16. Of the foreign trade Rangoon claimed 89'97 per cent. Of the remaining 10 per cent. Bassein took 4'03 per cent., Tavoy 2'58 per cent., and Moulmein 1'69 per cent. The percentage of the trade with India that fell to Rangoon was 82'47, and of the remaining 17'53 per cent. Akyab claimed 8'77 per cent., Moulmein 5'72 per cent., and Bassein 2'99 per cent.

Intra-provincial sea-borne trade.

120. The total value of the interportal trade of the Province in private merchandise was very much the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, Rs. 3,18'36 lakhs as against Rs. 3,18'26 lakhs, imports being Rs. 1,73'40 lakhs as against Rs. 1,71'20 lakhs and exports Rs. 1,44'96 lakhs as against Rs. 1,47'06 lakhs. The bulk of the traffic was as usual between Rangoon and the ports of the Tenasserim Division. There was a drop of Rs. 438 lakhs in the value of the total trade of

Rangoon, from Rs. 1,38'90 lakhs to Rs. 1,34'59 lakhs. Moulmein again showed a large decline due to the absence of steamer traffic with Rangoon, there being a total fall of Rs. 27'11 lakhs due mainly to a decrease in imports from Rs. 35'92 lakhs to Rs. 12'37 lakhs. Mergui was up by Rs. 11 lakhs to Rs. 50'31 lakhs, Tavoy up by Rs. 16 lakhs to Rs. 67'34 lakhs, and Akyab up by Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 41 lakhs. Akyab and Mergui showed increases in both exports and imports while Tavoy showed an increase in imports but a decline in exports the latter being due to the absence of a market at Penang and to high rates of freight and insurance.

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.

121. The total value of transfrontier trade registered during 1916-17 was Rs. 9,48'14 lakhs an increase of Rs. 2,01'83 lakhs, or 27 per cent., over the corresponding figure for 1915-16. Imports rose by Rs. 58'33 lakhs to Rs. 4,54'65 lakhs, and exports rose by Rs. 1,43'49 lakhs to Rs. 4,93'48 lakhs. The great increase in the material supplied to and the output from the Burma Mines' property in the Northern Shan States has been the main factor in the expansion. Generally speaking, apart from mining activity, the depression of trade due to the war was maintained during the year. An apparent recovery shown in many cases in the increased value of exports is largely illusory, being due to the rise in prices. During the year, importation of live-stock, continued to fall. Importation of hides did likewise, owing to the impossibility of exporting by sea. Imports of teak were the same as in the previous year. Metals alone showed a substantial rise, due to increased output of lead from the Northern Shan State and wolfram from Karenni. Among exports, the only real rises, in manufactured iron articles, coal, and railway materials, were also due to mining activity. European cotton-goods were down in quantity but up in value owing to the rise in prices. Indian cotton yarns showed an improvement both in quantity and value.

Trans-
frontier
trade: total
trade.

122. The trade with Western China is practically the trade of Burma with Yunnan, with the main emporia at Bhamo and Tengyueh. The principal articles exported are raw cotton, Indian cotton yarns, European piece-goods, fish and jade. The principal imports are pigs, hides, opiment, raw silk and silver. In 1916-17 the total volume of trade constituted a record, rising in value to Rs. 1,57'67 lakhs as against Rs. 1,35'51 lakhs in 1915-16. Imports rose from Rs. 88'32 lakhs to Rs. 1,02'49 lakhs and exports rose from Rs. 47'19 lakhs to Rs. 55'17 lakhs. The adverse balance of trade is adjusted by remittances from Rangoon to banks in China. The value of silver imported rose by Rs. 9'55 lakhs to Rs. 78'61 lakhs. The increase which has been conspicuous during the last three years is attributable partly to the exchange of Chinese for British coin which circulates freely in parts of Yunnan and partly to purchases of silver for export to Bombay. The importation of raw silk continued to increase and rose in amount from 2,377 maunds in 1915-16 to 3,431 maunds in 1916-17 and in value from Rs. 10'03 lakhs to Rs. 14'53 lakhs. The average value per unit of the raw silk imported has decreased. This may be due to inferior grades being imported to meet the demand caused by the stoppage of supplies from Europe. Imports of opiment rose from 4,633 maunds worth Rs. 61,806 in 1915-16 to 13,109 maunds worth Rs. 2'15 lakhs. The rise again is due to the impossibility of obtaining from Europe ingredients for the manufacture of paint. The quantity of hides imported rose from 7,954 maunds to 9,055 maunds, but the rise in value was by no means commensurate being from Rs. 2'31 lakhs to Rs. 2'37 lakhs. Among exports raw cotton declined in quantity from 4,964 to 4,335 maunds but rose in value from Rs. 91,571 to Rs. 1,15,432. The fluctuations in this trade in recent years have been interesting. The trade is a very old-established one. Owing to the rise in price of Burma cotton due to the demand for exportation to Europe, India and Japan the quantity exported to Yunnan fell in 1910-11 to 1,478 maunds worth Rs. 33,634. In 1913-14 consequent on a fall in prices in Burma the amount exported to Yunnan had increased to 7,681 maunds worth Rs. 2'01 lakhs. Next year, when exportation by sea had declined, the amount exported to Yunnan rose to 28,586 maunds worth Rs. 4'79 lakhs. In the last two years there has been a shrinkage correlative with the rise of prices in Burma. It would appear that the demand for Burma cotton in Yunnan is very elastic and

Western
China.

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Production and
Distribution.**

almost ceases to exist when the price reaches a certain limit. The Indian yarns exported increased in quantity from 55,350 maunds worth Rs. 21.88 lakhs in 1915-16 to 65,367 maunds worth Rs. 29.05 lakhs. European piece-goods declined in quantity from 12,136 maunds to 10,526 maunds, and in value from Rs. 14.48 lakhs to Rs. 13.78 lakhs. The quantity of fish exported fell considerably from 16,988 maunds to 13,348 maunds, but the decline in value was only from Rs. 1.51 lakhs to Rs. 1.37 lakhs. There was a marked fall in the export of jade from 1,117 maunds worth Rs. 1.49 lakhs to 692 maunds worth Rs. .94 lakh.

**Unadmin-
istered
Kachin
country and
the Northern
Shan States.**

123. Trade with the unadministered Kachin country increased in its volume from Rs. 11.82 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 13.55 lakhs in 1916-17. This increase is mainly due to the rise in exports from Rs. 6.56 lakhs to Rs. 8.01 lakhs the increase in imports being relatively small from Rs. 5.25 lakhs to Rs. 5.54 lakhs. The trade is mostly petty trade in common articles of food and clothing. Pigs, fish and gold dust are the principal imports and cattle, clothing, opium, and salt the principal exports.

Trade with the Northern Shan States increased markedly in total volume during the year from Rs. 3,32.39 lakhs to Rs. 5,11.55 lakhs, an increase of 54 per cent. Imports increased by 29 per cent. to Rs. 2,13.37 lakhs, and exports by 79 per cent. to Rs. 2,98.18 lakhs. In this trade metals, tea, hides, gums and resins, oranges and potatoes are among the chief imports, and wearing apparel, cotton yarns and piece-goods, petroleum, fish, salt, provisions, coal and metals among the chief exports. The expansion in trade in 1916-17, as in recent years, is largely due to the activity of the Burma Mines Corporation at Namtu. In the year of report the value of oranges imported rose from Rs. 3.49 lakhs to Rs. 4.81 lakhs. The value of dyes imported fell from Rs. 1.23 lakhs to Rs. .52 lakh. The value of gums and resins declined from Rs. 1.97 lakhs to Rs. 1.35 lakhs. Hides fell in value from Rs. 3.31 lakhs to Rs. 2.83 lakhs, the reduction in quantity being relatively less. Imports of pickled tea fell by over a lakh of rupees to Rs. 25.31 lakhs while dry tea rose by Rs. 4 lakhs to nearly Rs. 30 lakhs. Imports of lead and "other metals" rose, from Rs. 37.29 lakhs in 1915-16, to Rs. 89.28 lakhs, mainly owing to increased output from the Burma Mines. Among exports, the value of European piece-goods increased from Rs. 27.49 lakhs to Rs. 31.98 lakhs though the quantity exported fell from 21,716 maunds to 18,026 maunds. Exports of petroleum went up by 53 per cent. to Rs. 4.93 lakhs. To the activity of the Burma Mines Corporation are due the rise in the value of exported coal from Rs. 10.95 lakhs to Rs. 29.48 lakhs, of iron from Rs. 56.17 lakhs to Rs. 1,45.43 lakhs, and of railway materials from Rs. 4.52 lakhs to Rs. 9.32 lakhs. The value of salt exported rose from Rs. 3.97 lakhs to Rs. 6.17 lakhs.

**The South-
ern Shan
States.**

124. The decline in the trade with the Southern Shan States which marked the two previous years was continued in 1916-17, when the total volume of trade declined by nearly Rs. 4 lakhs, or 2 per cent. to Rs. 1,63.81 lakhs. Imports declined from Rs. 74.94 lakhs to Rs. 72.46 lakhs, and exports declined from Rs. 92.55 lakhs to Rs. 91.35 lakhs. Sixty-four per cent. of this trade is now carried by the Southern Shan States Railway. Live stock, cheroot-wrappers, foodstuffs, timber and hides are the main imports, cotton and silk manufactures, fish, salt, spices and silver the main exports. In the year of report, the value of ponies imported declined from Rs. 3.74 lakhs to Rs. 2.10 lakhs, and that of cattle from Rs. 10.13 lakhs to Rs. 8.67 lakhs. Only 8 elephants valued at Rs. .49 lakh were imported as against 57 worth Rs. 3.16 lakhs in 1915-16. The decline is due to the falling-off in purchases by timber firms. The value of imported garlic and oranges is up to Rs. 3.06 lakhs and Rs. 2.83 lakhs respectively, as against Rs. 2.21 lakhs and Rs. 1.27 lakhs in the previous year. There is a slight decline in potatoes from Rs. 4.04 lakhs to Rs. 3.77 lakhs. There is a marked increase in wheat, from Rs. .48 lakh to Rs. 3.94 lakhs. Imports in hides declined in volume from 3,244 maunds to 2,739 maunds, and in value from Rs. 1.39 lakhs to Rs. 1.08 lakhs. Cheroot-wrappers were up by over one and a half lakhs of rupees to Rs. 16.87 lakhs. The value of paints imported rose from Rs. .79 lakh to Rs. 1.27 lakhs. Among exports wearing apparel declined in value from Rs. 4.18 lakhs to Rs. 3.59 lakhs.

European piece-goods increased from 13,424 maunds worth Rs. 26.64 lakhs to 15,424 maunds worth Rs. 30.85 lakhs. Silk piece-goods fell from Rs. 2.07 lakhs to Rs. 1.35 lakhs. The value of iron articles exported fell from Rs. 5.86 lakhs to Rs. 2.69 lakhs. Salt rose from Rs. 2.47 lakhs to Rs. 3.21 lakhs. Oils were exported in larger quantities than the previous year: the value rose from Rs. 4.85 lakhs to just over Rs. 6 lakhs.

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUC-
TION AND
DISTRIBUTION

125. Trade with Northern Siam has decreased progressively since 1914-15, the total volume in that year being Rs. 70.95 lakhs, next year Rs. 49.01 lakhs and in the year of report Rs. 46.53 lakhs. Imports declined from Rs. 25.15 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 24.57 lakhs and exports, which were as high as Rs. 31.31 lakhs in 1914-15, declined from Rs. 23.85 lakhs to Rs. 21.96 lakhs. The decline in exports in 1916-17 is considerably less both relatively and absolutely than in the previous year. But this is due mainly to the rise in prices. Cattle, teak, elephants and silver are the main imports and wearing apparel and cotton yarns and piece-goods the main exports. In the year of report, the value of cattle imported rose from Rs. 2.69 lakhs to Rs. 3.46 lakhs, that of elephants fell from Rs. 5.61 lakhs to Rs. 4.61 lakhs, while teak showed a slight improvement from Rs. 5.92 lakhs to Rs. 5.96 lakhs. Among exports, European yarns declined in quantity from 5,757 maunds to 3,658 maunds, but rose in value from Rs. 3.73 lakhs to Rs. 3.93 lakhs. European piece-goods declined in quantity from 1,393 maunds to 841 maunds and in value from Rs. 2.37 lakhs to Rs. 1.74 lakhs.

Siam and
Karen.

Trade with Southern Siam fell from Rs. 20.46 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 16.21 lakhs which is rather less than half the volume of 1914-15. Imports fell from Rs. 14.01 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 10.33 lakhs, and exports from Rs. 6.44 lakhs to Rs. 5.87 lakhs. Among imports, the value of cattle declined by over a lakh of rupees to Rs. 66 lakh, and that of elephants from Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 3.13 lakhs. Silk piece-goods increased in quantity from 63 maunds to 123 maunds, the rise in value being proportionately less, from Rs. 2.02 lakhs to Rs. 3.38 lakhs. Among the exports the only notable increase is under Japanese goods with a rise from Rs. 20,642 to Rs. 41,420. Japan is supplying the cheap manufactured articles that formerly came from Germany and Austria. All the other main items of exports, apparel, iron articles, cotton yarns and cotton and silk piece-goods show a decrease generally ranging about 25 per cent.

The total value of the trade with Karenni rose, from Rs. 29.59 lakhs in 1915-16, to Rs. 38.78 lakhs, imports being up by almost Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 25.87 lakhs, and exports being up by Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 12.90 lakhs. The growing activity in mining is responsible for the expansion of trade in the year of report, and is counteracting the depression caused in late years by the exhaustion of the teak forests. The rise in imports is due to the increase in the output of wolfram extracted by the Mawchi Tin Mining Company which rose from a value of Rs. 3.55 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 7.7 lakhs. The rise in exports is due to the manufactured iron articles rising from Rs. 7,510 to Rs. 2.34 lakhs and silver from Rs. 4.47 lakhs to Rs. 8.53 lakhs.

Public Works.

126. No administrative changes took place in the Department of Public Works during the year. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 1,25.52 lakhs against a total grant of Rs. 1,35.04 lakhs. The expenditure in 1915-16 was Rs. 1,41.07 lakhs.

Adminis-
trative and
General

(i) Roads and Buildings.

127. The total length of metalled and unmetalled roads, respectively, maintained by Government agency throughout the Province outside Municipal areas was 1,916 miles and 10,432 miles. The Public Works Department maintained 1,912 miles of metalled roads and 8,706 miles of unmetalled roads,

Communi-
cations

Cust. IV.—
Trans-
ports and
Distri-
bution.

the remainder being under the charge of local authorities. There was a shrinkage, as compared with last year, of 21 miles in the case of metalled and 302 miles in the case of unmetalled roads. The total expenditure on communications, which in 1915-16 was Rs. 54.74 lakhs, amounted in the year of report to Rs. 51.21 lakhs, of which Rs. 19.80 lakhs were expended on original works and Rs. 31.41 lakhs on repairs. The usual routine of constructing, repairing and improving roads throughout the Province was carried on throughout the year. Among the more striking features may be noticed the construction of a 400 feet span suspension bridge at Tatingang over the Namtu in the Northern Shan States, the estimated cost being Rs. 70,038. This bridge takes the place of a ferry and will greatly improve communications in those States. Good progress was made in improving the communications of the Tavoy District with a view to facilitating an increased output of wolfram. The improvements to the Pagaye-Myitta road were completed. Three bridges were practically finished, one was actually finished and the renewal of another begun. On the Tavoy-Pagaye road, three bridges were renewed, and part of the road realigned to avoid floods. An inspection bungalow was completed at Kanbawk. Improvements were also made to the communications of the oil-fields at Yenangyaung. The policy of replacing old timber bridges by structures of a more permanent nature was pursued vigorously and a sum of Rs. 3.80 lakhs was spent on such work. During the year four meetings of the Communications Sub-Committee of the Standing Advisory Committee were held. One result of these meetings was the appointment of a selected Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer to draw up schemes of road-construction and to work out proposals for improving communications in each District in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer of each District. All that was done during the year towards the improvement of waterways in the Delta was the construction and completion of surveys and estimates for the major waterways, the improvement of which is contemplated. In the case of three schemes the estimates were sanctioned by the Local Government, in the case of four schemes the necessary land was demarcated and in the case of three schemes was notified for acquisition.

Buildings :
Imperial
and Provin-
cial

128. A sum of Rs. 3.43 lakhs was expended on Civil Imperial Works as compared with Rs. 6.22 lakhs in the preceding year. The new Customs House at Rangoon was completed. The new Telegraph Office at Rangoon was practically finished. The wireless telegraphy station at Maymyo was completed except for the rainwater pipes for the main building. A loggia was built at Government House, Rangoon. At Thayetmyo an internment-camp, and at Shwebo a sanatorium, were built for Turkish prisoners. Expenditure on Civil Provincial buildings, which in the previous year was Rs. 10.92 lakhs, amounted in the year of report to Rs. 17.50 lakhs, of which Rs. 9.68 lakhs were spent on new works and Rs. 7.82 lakhs on repairs. A sum of Rs. 1.19 lakhs was expended on works at the Insein Central Jail. The construction of a District Court-House at Myingyan to replace the former one destroyed by fire was commenced and progressed satisfactorily. Good progress was made with the necessary buildings at Mawlaik, the designated headquarters of the Upper Chindwin District. Permanent quarters for the Civil Police were completed at 12 police-stations in Lower Burma. Good progress was made with the new Municipal Hospital at Toungoo. A new ward, necessitated by the development of the mining industry, was built at the Tavoy Municipal Hospital. At Rangoon the alterations of the old General Hospital to provide better accommodation for the Government Medical School were taken in hand. These are the most outstanding items in a list of numerous works, completed or in progress during the year on schools, court-houses, jails, hospitals and other Government buildings throughout the Province.

Miscellane-
ous public
improve-
ments and
sanitary
works.

129. During the year the total expenditure throughout the Province on Miscellaneous Public Improvements was Rs. 19.98 lakhs of which Rs. 15.08 lakhs were devoted to new works and Rs. 4.90 lakhs to repairs. The total expenditure in the previous year was Rs. 22.07 lakhs. The work of reclaiming

town-sites in the Delta by the dredger "Frederic Fryer" was proceeded with, the reclamation of Wakema and Mawlamyainggyun Towns in the Myaungmya District and of the recreation-ground at Ma-ubin being completed and two-thirds of the work at Pyapôn carried out. Reclamation was also carried out at Myohaung in the Akyab District where the moat was filled in, and at Kyaukpyn where the filling in of swamps behind the embankment was nearly completed. At the new Railway Towns of Bassein, Yegyi (Bassein District) and Penwegon (Pegu District) progress was made with the construction of roads. The site of the new civil station at Kalaw in the Southern Shan States was cleared and some four miles of roads and ten culverts completed. The protective embankment at Sagaing was completed. Protective works to the foreshore at Bogale in the Pyapôn District and at Kyaukpyu near the bazaar were completed. The Singon bridge at Kyaukse was completed.

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Surveys were made and materials collected for an empounding reservoir at Maymyo and construction was begun with convict labour. In the Bassein District the screw-pile jetty at Kangyidaung was completed. Two landing stages were constructed at Thayagon and Thayaukmyaik in the Myaungmya District. Considerable progress was made with the construction of the jetty at Andrew Bay in Sandoway. The improvements to the China Bakir Lighthouse were completed, the new light being first exhibited in December 1916. The improvements to the landings at the Alguada Reef Lighthouse were nearly completed. The construction of bazaars was completed in ten towns mainly in the Irrawaddy Division and the Northern Shan States. New bazaars were in process of construction at three towns, and improvements to bazaars were being carried on in four other towns in the Province. The water-supply schemes at Kalaw, Ma-ubin and Minbu were brought near to completion. Schemes for supplying Pyawbwe and Yamethin with water were in hand, and a start was made with a scheme for supplying Aungban in the Southern Shan States. Three tube-wells were successfully sunk at Myingyan. Unsuccessful attempts to obtain water by means of tube-wells were made at Pyinmana, Paungde, Yamethin and Meiktila. A scheme for the drainage of part of the town of Akyab was completed, and a scheme for Toungoo nearly completed. A scheme for the drainage of Pwinbyu in the Minbu District was started. Expenditure on Town Lands Reclamation works in Rangoon amounted to Rs. 3½ lakhs. Practically nothing was done in the way of actual land reclamation owing to lack of funds and the work done consisted in making roads, surface-drains and sewers in areas already reclaimed.

130. The total expenditure on military works was Rs. 5·28 lakhs as against Rs. 5·25 lakhs in the previous year. A second-class operating-room for the Hospital for Indian troops at Mandalay was nearly completed. At Maymyo, temporary barracks in the Gurkha lines were built at a cost of Rs. 67,256. The improvements to the rifle-range at Thamaing were practically completed at a cost of Rs. 78,477. Good progress was made on the construction of four more quarters for Sergeant-Instructors of Volunteers at Rangoon. At Pegu improvements were carried out to the Sergeant Instructor's quarters, Burma Railways Volunteer Corps at a cost of Rs. 2,599 and at Tavoy quarters for a Sergeant Instructor, an armoury, drill hall, kit-store and office were completed at a cost of Rs. 22,204. At the camp for prisoners of war at Thayetmyo, weather screens were provided for all temporary barracks in the North Camp and temporary bungalow accommodation for 20 officers in the South Camp. Within the Fort the construction of accommodation for the British Infantry detachment and of temporary accommodation for the Garrison Company, including two quarters for Indian officers, was completed.

Military
works

(ii) Railways and Tramways.

131. The railways of the Province are worked by the Burma Railways Company, Limited. No additions were made to the length of open line and it remained at 1,598·46 miles. No lines were under construction during the year. The report and estimates for the proposed coast-route line to connect Burma with India were

Railways :
construction
and surveys.

CHAP. IV.—
Passenger
Traffic and
Disturbances.

still under consideration during the year but no conclusion was arrived at even as to whether the coast-route should be adopted in preference to the Hukong Valley route. During the year the question of the suitability of the proposed alignment and the waterways and level crossings of the proposed Aungban-Heho extension of the Southern Shan States Railway was under discussion between the Railway Board and the Local Government. It was decided that the extension to Heho should be proceeded with as soon as possible. Consideration of a proposed further extension into the Inle Lake Valley was postponed till after survey as in the opinion of the Government of India, the terminus at Heho will meet all requirements for the present and the immediate future. The survey of the proposed branch line in the Henzada District from Kyangin to Petye was completed during the year, and the report and the estimate were under consideration. The Buthidaung-Maungdaw Tramway has been taken over by the Arakan Light Railway Company, Limited, and negotiations were in progress during the year between the new Company and the Railway Board as to the terms of working. In the first of the new Company's reports the hope is expressed that the line will be completed in February 1918. A proposal was received from a syndicate styled the Tenasserim Railway and Trading Syndicate for the establishment of a railway-system in certain parts of the Tenasserim Division and was under consideration in the year of report.

Accidents
and
interrup-
tions.

132. During the year there were in all six railway accidents due to causes other than floods. Traffic was interrupted temporarily, but there was no loss of life or serious injury to persons. The most serious accident occurred at Okpo station on the Prome line on the 24th November 1916, when a mixed train collided with a goods train in consequence of the driver of the latter having run against signals. No one was hurt. The two engines were interlocked, five wagons were wrecked and four others damaged. The total damage amounted to Rs. 7,850. The offending driver was prosecuted and sent to jail for three months. Two passengers were slightly injured on the main line near Yamethin by the derailling of a train owing to the driver prematurely applying the brakes. Of the other derailments, one, on the main line, was due to wilful mischief; two, on the Mogaung-Myitkyina line, were due to buffaloes disputing the passage of trains; and one was due to a fault of the permanent way. Floods caused breaches of the line and interruption of traffic in twelve instances during the year. On the 14th September 1916 the Mogaung-Myitkyina line between Bonchaung and Meza stations was breached owing to a flood, and the engine and ten goods vehicles of a mixed train were precipitated into the gap. No passengers were injured. One fireman was slightly hurt. Damage to the extent of over Rs. 10,000 was done. On the night of the 30th September a sudden flood, due to the bursting of an irrigation-weir, caused a breach on the main line near Minzu station. A goods train dropped into the breach and sixteen wagons were wrecked. The driver and two firemen were slightly injured. Damage to the amount of Rs. 10,000 was done. During the same night several breaches were made in the line a few miles further north, which occasioned a total suspension of traffic for 3½ days. Damage by floods also caused interruptions to traffic on the main line between Thagaya and Yeni stations in July and near Thawati station in September; on the Mogaung-Myitkyina line between Kawlin and Wuntho stations in July; on the Sagaing-Alon line, between Kyichmon and Mōnywa stations in June and between Ywataung and Legyi stations in September; on the Mandalay-Lashio line, at the Gokteik Viaduct in September; and to the Southern Shan States line at Lebyin in October. Persistent trouble was caused by landslips, due to floods, into a cutting south of Yinmabin station on the Southern Shan States line. Traffic was interrupted in August and twice in October. At the same place in February, traffic was again interrupted and four coolies injured, two fatally, by the fall of a piece of rock, following some blasting operations.

Traffic and
finance.

133. The number of passengers carried by the Burma Railways Company during the year was 29,030,278 as compared with 27,738,360 in 1915-16. The gross earnings were Rs. 2,47'28 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 25'46 lakhs on the previous

year's figures, while working expenses were down by Rs. 97,000 to Rs. 1,08,66 lakhs. The net earnings thus rose from Rs. 91.17 lakhs to Rs. 1,18.6 lakhs. On the main line the capital outlay during the year was Rs. 10.32 lakhs, which raises the total capital outlay since the commencement of operations to Rs. 17,91.24 lakhs. The total mileage run by trains increased from 4,767,702 miles to 4,804,258 miles. Gross earnings increased by Rs. 23.25 lakhs to Rs. 2,23.20 lakhs and there being a decrease of some Rs. 62,000 in working expenses, net earnings rose from Rs. 84.33 lakhs to Rs. 1,08.30 lakhs. The percentage of expenses to earnings was 51.48 as against 57.80 in the previous year and net receipts amounted to 5.96 per cent. of the capital outlay as against a corresponding figure of 4.80 in 1915-16. The total capital outlay on the Pegu-Moulmein Railway was reduced during the year by Rs. 5,298 and stands at Rs. 1,55.19 lakhs. The train mileage increased from 365,827 to 381,445 miles. Gross earnings increased from Rs. 14.63 lakhs to Rs. 17.56 lakhs and working expenses fell from Rs. 8.94 lakhs to Rs. 8.92 lakhs. The net earnings were therefore Rs. 8.6 lakhs as against Rs. 5.7 lakhs in the previous year. The ratio borne by working expenses to gross earnings fell from 61.09 per cent. to 50.81 per cent. and the net receipts amounted to 5.57 per cent. of the capital outlay, as against 3.67 in 1915-16. On the Henzada-Kyangin Railway the total capital outlay decreased during the year by Rs. 26,163 to Rs. 64.95 lakhs. The train mileage decreased from 107,073 to 104,170 miles. Gross earnings increased from Rs. 2.94 lakhs to Rs. 3.13 lakhs and there being an increase in working expenses from Rs. 2.01 lakhs to Rs. 2.03 lakhs net earnings rose by Rs. 17,290 to Rs. 1.1 lakhs. Working expenses amounted to 64.86 per cent. of the gross earnings as against 68.47 per cent. in the previous year and net receipts represented 1.69 per cent. of the capital outlay as against 1.42 in 1915-16. On the Southern Shan States line capital outlay on the completed portion from Thazi to Aungban was reduced during the year by Rs. 2.37 lakhs to Rs. 1,53.51 lakhs. The train mileage decreased from 111,404 to 86,432 miles. Gross earnings decreased slightly from Rs. 3.39 lakhs to Rs. 3.38 lakhs and working expenses considerably from Rs. 3.18 lakhs to Rs. 2.83 lakhs. Net earnings rose from Rs. 21,413 to Rs. 55,277 and represented 0.36 per cent. of the total capital outlay as against 0.14 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of expenses to gross earnings was 83.65 as against 93.68 in the previous year.

Comp. R.
Prop.
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Disburse-
ment.

134. The total number of passengers carried by the Rangoon Tramways during the year was 10,860,629, an increase of 49,223 over the previous year's figures. The running mileage was computed at 1,435,286 as against 1,446,512 in the preceding year. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 8,52,956 as compared with Rs. 8,61,301 in the previous year. In Mandalay the Burma Electric Tramways and Lighting Company carried a total number of 2,676,900 passengers with a total mileage run of 508,960 miles as against corresponding figures of 2,559,101 and 502,507 in the previous year. The receipts were Rs. 2.15 lakhs as against Rs. 2.03 lakhs. The Mandalay-Madaya light railway was completed in March 1917 but was not open for passenger traffic at the close of the year.

Tramways

(iii) Canals.

135. The Pegu-Sittang Canal in the Pegu District is maintained out of canal dues and used solely for navigation. On this canal, the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia Crassipes*) again gave trouble during the year, and a large part of the funds provided for the maintenance of the canal had to be spent on weed-extraction. To cope with this pest various expedients were adopted, which, though not entirely successful, at least prevented the canal being blocked for any considerable length of time. Various repairs were done to the sluice-gates. A sum of Rs. 60,500 was spent on repairs to the Abya Sluice. The Suction Dredger worked from November to January in the shallow area between miles 33 and 34. Measurements in one length showed that, three weeks after dredging operations ceased, the canal-bed had come back to the same level as before operations began, a result which, as no silt is being deposited, can be due only to the weight of the high banks

CHAP. IV.—
FLOOD-
PREVENTION AND
DRAINAGE
WORKS.

squeezing the bed up. The cost of maintaining the canal was Rs. 1·82 lakhs as against Rs. 1·39 lakhs in the previous year. Receipts increased from Rs. 1·67 lakhs in 1915-16, to Rs. 1·73 lakhs. The expenditure during the year on the scheme for improving the Twante Canal, the chief waterway between the Rangoon river and the China Bakir River, appears in the accounts as *minus* Rs. 63,577. This apparent anomaly is accounted for by the fact that the dredger "Oswald" was taken over by His Majesty's Government for service in Mesopotamia at her depreciated value of Rs. 7·61 lakhs. Of the total sum expended, Rs. 3·21 lakhs were spent on excavation by dredging, by which means 807·5 lakhs cubic feet of earth were extracted. A sum of Rs. 94,870 was spent on the maintenance of dredgers and launches. Two dredgers and two launches were sent to Mesopotamia at the end of the year. Laterite pitching at the New Cut accounted for an expenditure of Rs. 1·29 lakhs. The Shwetachaung Canal is partly used for irrigation and partly for navigation, serving the local traffic between Mandalay and Madaya. The damage done by floods in the previous year was repaired, various minor improvements were made and the ordinary maintenance works carried out at a total cost of Rs. 1,155.

Irrigation.

Major
irrigation
works.

136. There are in the Province four irrigation works classed as Major Works—the Mandalay Canal, the Shwebo Canal, the Mōn Canals and the Ye-u Canal. The total amount of capital outlay in connection with these canals at the end of 1916-17 amounted to Rs. 2,10·31 lakhs of which Rs. 5·42 lakhs was expended during the year. The total area receiving benefit increased from 277,792 acres to 282,447 acres; revenue receipts fell from Rs. 15·59 lakhs to Rs. 15·11 lakhs; working expenses fell from Rs. 6·46 lakhs to Rs. 6·17 lakhs and net revenue amounted to Rs. 8·94 lakhs as against Rs. 10·13 lakhs in the previous year, representing a return of 4·2 per cent. on the total capital outlay including that portion expended on the unfinished Ye-u Canal. The area irrigated by the Mandalay Canal was 63,084 acres as against 60,451 acres in 1915-16. This area is the largest on record, the previous best being 62,967 acres in 1913-14. A further expansion is to be looked for as the high level pipes from the main canal are expected to irrigate a larger area; and the area irrigated from the Kinbat Distributary will be increased when some areas now covered with jungle are brought under cultivation. The gross revenue increased from Rs. 3·55 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 4·05 lakhs and, working expenses being Rs. 1·70 lakhs as against Rs. 1·5 lakhs, the net revenue rose from Rs. 2·05 lakhs to Rs. 2·35 lakhs. The net revenue represents a return of 4·12 per cent. on the capital outlay. The gross revenue is the highest ever recorded. The increase in the year of report, however, is only partly due to the increase in the area irrigated, as there were large recoveries of water-rate and land revenue tax due in the previous year. The working expenses include an outlay of Rs. 47,844 on the reconstruction of the head weir. The area irrigated by the Shwebo Canal was 161,274 acres as against 165,287 acres in 1915-16. The gross revenue fell from Rs. 8·15 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 7·80 lakhs and working expenses from Rs. 2·86 lakhs to Rs. 2·74 lakhs. Thus the net revenue fell from Rs. 5·29 lakhs to Rs. 5·06 lakhs. The net revenue represents a return of 8·54 per cent. on the capital outlay. The falling off during the year is due to a shortage in the supply of water from the river in the early part of the season and also to part of the area being given over to the cultivation of wheat which crop is assessed at a lower rate than rice. The area irrigated by the Mōn Canals was 58,089 acres as against 52,054 acres in 1915-16. The increase is due to the favourable season and especially to the absence of floods. The gross revenue fell from Rs. 4·89 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 3·26 lakhs. The decrease is due to the fact that outstandings of 1914-15 amounting to Rs. 1·95 lakhs were realized in 1915-16. Working expenses fell from Rs. 2·1 lakhs to Rs. 1·73 lakhs and net revenue from Rs. 2·79 lakhs to Rs. 1·53 lakhs. The net revenue represents a return of 2·7 per cent. on the capital outlay. The Ye-u Canal is still under construction. During the year a total sum of Rs. 5·52 lakhs was expended, bringing the total expenditure on this canal up to Rs. 37·25 lakhs.

137. Of the Minor Irrigation Works in the Province the most important from the revenue point of view are the Zawgyi and Panlaung River systems in the Kyaukse District and the Man and Salin Canals in the Minbu District. The area irrigated by the Zawgyi and Panlaung systems was 89,189 and 59,726 acres respectively, in each case a slight increase on the figures for the previous year. The Man Canals irrigated 16,851 as against 15,580 acres in the previous year, and the Salin Canals 27,957 as against 23,148 acres. The increase in the Man area is due to the favourable season, also to reduction of rents by landlords. Other Minor Works sufficiently important to merit notice are the following:—

The Shwetach'haung Canal in the Mandalay District irrigated 16,235 acres as against 14,866 acres in the previous year. The Mu Canal in Shwebo irrigated 12,013 as against 12,645 acres. In the Meiktila District the area irrigated from the Meiktila Lake rose from 24,492 acres in 1915-16 to 46,292 acres and that irrigated from the Nyaungyan-Minhla tank from 16,969 acres to 27,133 acres. In Yamethin the area irrigated from the Kyaukse tank rose from 2,986 acres in 1915-16 to 8,293 acres. A legion of small Minor Works in Upper Burma irrigated 79,977 acres in the year of report as against 45,570 acres in the previous year. The most notable fluctuations from last year's level are a drop from 11,567 acres to 8,223 in Shwebo and a rise from 20,013 acres to 37,287 in Yamethin. The total area irrigated from Minor Irrigation Works was 383,666 acres as against 299,218 in 1915-16. The gross receipts from Minor Irrigation Works in Upper Burma was Rs. 15.16 lakhs, working expenses were Rs. 6.20 lakhs and net revenue Rs. 8.96 lakhs as against corresponding figures of Rs. 12.52 lakhs, Rs. 68.3 lakhs and Rs. 5.69 lakhs in the previous year.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

REFERENCES—

- Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Burma during the year ended the 30th June 1917.
Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Burma, (Irrigation) for the year 1916-17.
Report on the Maritime Trade and Customs Administration of Burma for the official year 1916-17.
Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of Burma with Foreign Countries and Indian Ports for the official year 1916-17, Part I, Foreign Trade.
Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in Burma during the year ended the 31st March 1917.
Report on the Administration of Salt Revenue in Burma during the year 1916.
Report on the Administration of the Stamp Revenue in Burma for the years 1914-15 to 1916-17.
Report on the working of the Income-tax Act, II of 1886, in Burma for the years 1914-15 to 1916-17.
Report on the Forest Administration of Burma for the year 1916-17.
Report on the working of the Rangoon Municipality for the year 1916-17.
Report on the Reclamation of Rangoon Town Lands for the year 1916-17.
Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipal Committees in Burma (except Rangoon) during the year 1916-17.
Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries, Volume II.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volumes II and IV.

Provincial Settlement.

138. The receipts and expenditure of the Province, other than those pertaining to Local authorities, are divided between the Imperial and Provincial Governments in accordance with the terms of what is known as the Provincial Settlement. The existing Provincial Settlement was drawn up in 1907, but its terms were modified in 1911 with a view to converting large fixed assignments which the Province then received from Imperial Revenues, into shares of growing revenue. The original Provincial Settlement was described in the General Administration Report of 1907-08, and the subsequent modifications were summarised in the General Administration Report of 1911-12. In 1915-16, in view of the fact that the Provincial Settlement had proved less favourable to the Province than had been anticipated, an additional recurring assignment from Imperial to Provincial Revenues of Rs. 15·11 lakhs was sanctioned. There was no fresh modification of the Provincial Settlement in the year of report.

Gross Revenue and Expenditure.

139. The gross receipts for the Province for the year of report amounted to Rs. 12,72·11 lakhs, as against Rs. 11,42·23 lakhs in the previous year, and the gross expenditure to Rs. 8,76·42 lakhs, as against Rs. 8,75·93 lakhs in the previous year, receipts thus showing an increase of Rs. 1,29·89 lakhs and expenditure an increase of Rs. 50 lakh. Receipts classed as Imperial rose by Rs. 64·05 lakhs to Rs. 4,49·29 lakhs, and receipts classed as Provincial rose by Rs. 39·01 lakhs to Rs. 5,93·34 lakhs. Receipts of District Funds rose by Rs. 10·45 lakhs to Rs. 55·22 lakhs, and receipts of Municipal Funds rose by Rs. 4·05 lakhs to Rs. 1,05·58 lakhs. Imperial expenditure decreased by Rs. 10·78 lakhs to Rs. 61·62 lakhs, and Provincial expenditure decreased by Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 5,59·06 lakhs. Expenditure from District Funds rose by Rs. 3·5 lakhs to Rs. 56·62 lakhs, and that from Municipal Funds fell by Rs. 2·91 lakhs to Rs. 1,09·38 lakhs. The receipts and expenditure from other funds were respectively Rs. 88·68 lakhs and

Rs. 89.75 lakhs, as against corresponding amounts of Rs. 76.35 lakhs and Rs. 74.06 lakhs in the previous year.

These figures include the transactions of the Rangoon and Moalmein Municipalities, the Rangoon Port Trust, and the Rangoon Pilot Fund, though they do not bank with Government.

CHAP. V.—
REVENUE,
AND
FINANCE.

(A) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

[In this section are discussed sources of Revenue or Expenditure which are partly, as well as those which are wholly, Imperial.]

140. The net increase of Rs. 64.05 lakhs in Imperial receipts is the result of a gross increase of Rs. 64.82 lakhs, occurring mainly under eight heads, and a decrease of Rs. 76,800, occurring mainly under four heads. The receipts under the head "Land Revenue" rose by Rs. 3.71 lakhs, due to a good agricultural season, to enhanced demands of land-tax as a result of the re-settlement of three Districts, to increased returns from the auction-sales of fisheries and to increased output of minerals and precious stones. Receipts from opium increased by Rs. 1.53 lakhs, receipts from salt by Rs. 6.37 lakhs, and receipts from stamps by three-quarters of a lakh of rupees. There was an increase of Rs. 3.6 lakhs under Excise, of Rs. 33.29 lakhs from Customs, and of Rs. 7.65 lakhs from Income-tax. Under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial" there was an increase of Rs. 7.76 lakhs due to the reduction of the contribution from Imperial funds for the constitution of the new frontier District of Putao and the occupation of Hpimaw. Of the heads under which there was a decrease, the principal is "Irrigation," receipts under which fell by Rs. 36,790 as a result of smaller receipts from the Môn and Shwebo Canals. This entailed another decrease of Rs. 21,982 under the head 'Portion of Land Revenue due to Irrigation.' There was also a decrease of Rs. 9,607 from Tribute and of Rs. 8,467 in receipts in and of super-annuation.

Total
Imperial
figures :
notable
variations.

In expenditure there was a gross decrease of Rs. 13.61 lakhs, occurring mainly under three heads, and against this an increase of Rs. 2.83 lakhs mainly falling under five heads. There was a decrease of Rs. 40,822 under the head "Irrigation—Major Works" and a decrease of Rs. 9.91 lakhs under "Capital Expenditure on Major Works." Expenditure on Civil Public Works fell by Rs. 3.19 lakhs. There was an increase of Rs. 1.26 lakhs under "Refunds and Drawbacks" due to larger refunds from Customs, Tributes, Land Revenue and Income-tax. The only other considerable increase is one of Rs. 88,846 under the head "Customs."

Land Revenue.

141. The gross receipts under "Land Revenue" for the financial year ending 31st March 1917 were Rs. 4,73.71 lakhs, as against Rs. 4,64.18 lakhs in the previous year. Under the terms of the Provincial Settlement by which three-eighths of the receipts under this head are allotted to Imperial and five-eighths to Provincial Funds, Rs. 1,76.24 lakhs were credited to Imperial and Rs. 2,97.47 lakhs to Provincial Funds respectively, as against corresponding amounts of Rs. 1,72.53 lakhs and Rs. 2,91.65 lakhs in the previous year. Expenditure under Land Revenue, which is wholly debitable to Provincial Funds, was Rs. 68.55 lakhs as compared with Rs. 70.94 lakhs in the previous year. Land Revenue proper, of which the collections during the year amounted to Rs. 3,00.78 lakhs, as against Rs. 2,88.72 lakhs in the previous year, is dealt with under Chapter II of this Report. The head "Land Revenue" also includes receipts from sources other than the land-tax. Collections of capitation-tax in Lower Burma amounted to Rs. 57.25 lakhs as compared with Rs. 56.68 lakhs in 1915-16. The number of persons assessed to capitation-tax was 1,421,443 some 12,000 more than in the previous year. As compared with the year immediately preceding the war, the number of assesses was smaller by 874 only, while the demand was Rs. 70,432 larger. A larger

Land
revenue
receipts.

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FINANCE.

demand in proportion to the number of assesses has been a noticeable feature since the outbreak of war, and indicates a steady growth of the permanently resident population, to which the married couples mainly belong, together with diminution of the temporary immigration of workers, mostly single men, from India. Remissions were down by some Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 14 lakhs, and outstandings at the close of the year were Rs. 1,165 as against Rs. 575 in the previous year. Collections of land-rate in lieu of capitation-tax amounted to Rs. 93,584, which is practically the same as in the previous year. The number of households assessed to *thathameda* was 883,783, being 8,248 more than in the previous year. Remissions, however, were heavier, largely owing to damage done by late floods in the Chin-rin, and the collections were Rs. 39.69 lakhs, an increase of only Rs. 20,894 on the previous year's figure. Receipts under fishery revenue amounted to Rs. 31.19 lakhs as compared with Rs. 29.95 lakhs in 1915-16. The demand showed a recovery of about a lakh and a quarter of rupees from the low figure of 1915-16, despite a fall by over Rs. 20,000 in license fees. The price of salt continued high, the market was comparatively poor, the season was mediocre, and the lease-rents were in some cases paid with difficulty. Remissions totalled Rs. 31,760 as against Rs. 31,295 in the previous year, and outstandings rose from Rs. 10,430 to Rs. 12,539. Collections of "Miscellaneous Land Revenue" amounted to Rs. 41.67 lakhs, very nearly five lakhs of rupees less than the previous year's total. Of the sub-heads under this main head Rents of Town Lands not credited to Local Funds fell by Rs. 4,388 to Rs. 2.59 lakhs. Fees, rents and royalties on petroleum, rubies, jade and amber decreased by over Rs. 6½ lakhs to Rs. 32.25 lakhs. Receipts from petroleum declined by over Rs. 7½ lakhs owing to exhaustion of some of the oil sands and to temporary interruptions of work. Royalties on jade-stone decreased by Rs. 37,300 to Rs. 85,500. The recovery of the trade in rubies that had marked the previous year was continued in 1916-17 and largely in consequence receipts from royalties on precious stones increased by over Rs. 52,000. Fees, rents and royalties on other minerals rose by Rs. 1.56 lakhs or 64 per cent. to Rs. 3.99 lakhs and are the highest ever recorded. The Tenasserim Division alone accounts for the whole of the increase. The Tavoy receipts rose from Rs. 1.6 lakhs to Rs. 2.79 lakhs chiefly on account of an increase of over a lakh of rupees in royalties on wolfram. Royalties on tin rose from Rs. 207 in 1915-16 to Rs. 2,228. Receipts under the Village Act rose from Rs. 2.1 lakhs to Rs. 2.17 lakhs, and survey fees from pottas rose from Rs. 10,624 to Rs. 26,777.

Canal (Navigation and Irrigation) Revenue.

142. The concluding paragraphs of Chapter IV deal with the canals and irrigation works of the Province and the revenue obtained from them during the year of report. Receipts and expenditure on Major Irrigation works are wholly Imperial. Those of the other works referred to in the paragraphs above mentioned are wholly Provincial.

Sources of Imperial Revenue other than the Land.

Customs.

143. Both receipts and expenditure under the head Customs are classified as Imperial. Receipts under this head do not include the import duty on salt, which is classed under the head "Salt." The total collections for the year under the head Customs amounted to Rs. 1,52.76 lakhs as against Rs. 1,19.47 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 33.29 lakhs. Receipts from exports rose by Rs. 10.29 lakhs to Rs. 61.88 lakhs, and receipts from imports rose by Rs. 22.29 lakhs to Rs. 89.05 lakhs. The reasons for these increases are discussed in the paragraphs of this Report that deal with Trade. The expenditure on Customs was Rs. 7.20 lakhs as against Rs. 6.31 lakhs in the previous year. The increase in expenditure was mainly due to larger expenditure on the appraising establishment, in steam launch charges and allowances, and to the payment of fees for Sunday labour. The net revenue from Customs was Rs. 1,45.56 lakhs as against Rs. 1,13.16 lakhs in the previous year.

144. Under the Imperial Accounts head "Opium" there is no expenditure in Burma, and receipts include only the payments made by the Government of Burma to the Government of India for the purchase of opium. All other receipts and expenditure in connection with opium are included under the head "Excise" which is noticed below. In the year of report the Government of Burma expended on the purchase of opium a sum of Rs. 5.19 lakhs as against Rs. 3.66 lakhs in the previous year. The increase is in part due to the enhancement of the rate charged by the Government of India.

CHAP. V.—
REVENUE
AND
FINANCE.

Opium.

145. No change in the law or procedure took place during the year but a Burma Salt Act (since passed into law) was under preparation. The customs duty on imported salt was raised with effect from the 1st April from Re. 1 to Re. 1-4-0 per maund and the excise duty on local salt was raised with effect from the 15th April from 12 annas to Re. 1 per maund in the seven Districts where duty is levied on the outturn. The cost of the salt establishment was Rs. 45,444 as against Rs. 46,066 in 1915 and the proportion of cost to revenue in the seven direct-duty Districts 5.86 per cent. as against 9.81 per cent. The decrease in proportion of cost to revenue was due to increased revenue.

Salt—
General.

146. Scarcity of shipping and high freights had in the previous year caused a large reduction in the quantity of foreign salt imported into the Province. Towards the end of that year the price of salt was nearly double the normal price and stocks in bond were very low. The result was to stimulate both the production of local salt and the importation of foreign salt in 1916. The output of salt in the seven Districts under the system of direct taxation was 993,091 maunds as compared with 718,405 maunds in 1915. In the other Districts, under the system of composition duty, the estimated output for the year was 62,432 maunds, as against an estimated output of 57,996 maunds in the previous year. The number of licenses in the Districts under direct taxation rose from 252 to 259, Bassein, Amherst and Myaunginya having increases of 4, 2 and 1 respectively. In the Districts in which the system of composition duty is in force, the number of licenses rose from 811 to 878, the number of cauldrons rose from 796 to 870, while the number of pots fell from 131 to 127. Of the eleven Districts, excluding the Upper Chindwin, 6 had an increased and 5 a decreased estimated output. In the Upper Chindwin the output increased from 56 maunds to 354 maunds. In the direct-duty Districts the quantity of locally-made salt issued from bond during the year was 855,562 maunds, an increase of 227,249 maunds, or 36 per cent., on the previous year's figures. In the Districts under the system of composition duty, the revenue demand increased by Rs. 2,711, or 12 per cent., to Rs. 25,186. The demand in the direct-duty Districts increased from Rs. 4.7 lakhs to Rs. 7.75 lakhs. Imports of foreign salt increased by 455,708 maunds, or 31 per cent., to 1,918,232 maunds. Since 1897 these figures have been exceeded only in 1911 and 1914. Clearances from bond increased by 122,505 maunds, or a little over 8 per cent., to 1,592,308 maunds. The duty realized increased by Rs. 4,37,405 or nearly 30 per cent. to Rs. 19,07,208. Imports from the United Kingdom rose from 239,126 maunds in 1915 to 423,868 maunds. Imports from Aden rose from 302,216 maunds to 589,970 maunds, imports from Egypt from 104,806 maunds to 438,278 maunds, while imports from Spain declined from 550,079 maunds to 426,028 maunds. Importations of salt from India which rose from 8,979 maunds in 1914 to 265,574 maunds in 1915 fell to 40,044 maunds in the year of report. At the close of the year the amount of Burma-made salt in bond was 101,719 maunds as against 61,238 maunds twelve months earlier, while stocks of imported salt in bond had increased from 302,955 maunds to 547,843 maunds. Imports of salted fish declined by 25 per cent. to 102,077 maunds, and the duty thereon by 9 per cent. to Rs. 45,327, the figures in each respect being the lowest on record. There was an increase in importations of the wet variety and a large decrease in the dry variety. The decrease is attributable to tightness of the money market and to better prices being obtainable in the Straits Settlements. The total revenue derived from salt and saltfish during the year was Rs. 27.53 lakhs, as against Rs. 20.11 lakhs in the previous year.

Supply of
Salt.

CHAP. V.—
REVENUE
AND
FINANCE.

Excise—
General.

147. The gross receipts derived from excise amounted to Rs. 88.24 lakhs as compared with Rs. 81.15 lakhs in 1915-16 an increase of Rs. 7.09 lakhs or 8.7 per cent. In these figures is included only the net gain on issues of excise opium (i.e., the proceeds from the issues of opium *minus* the cost price to Government), whereas in former years the proceeds were shown as revenue and the cost debited as a charge. Making allowance for this, the figures constitute a record. Revenue from liquors rose by Rs. 1.75 lakhs or 3.8 per cent. to Rs. 47.83 lakhs. The total receipts from opium rose by Rs. 5.29 lakhs or 15.6 per cent. to Rs. 39.25 lakhs. The total expenditure on the conjoint Salt and Excise establishments fell by over 1 per cent. from Rs. 12.53 lakhs to Rs. 12.36 lakhs. The largest item in the decrease is a fall in refunds owing to more accurate forecasting by licensees of the profits of their shops.

Excise—
Opium.

148. The total revenue derived from opium increased by 15.6 per cent. to Rs. 39.25 lakhs. The bulk of this total increase of Rs. 5.29 lakhs consists of an increase of Rs. 5.07 lakhs in the net gain on issues of Excise opium. This was due to increased issues of opium and to an increase in the wholesale price. The balance of the increase is made up by an increase in the receipts from license fees from Rs. 91 lakh to Rs. 1.12 lakhs. The total quantity of opium issued, both excise and confiscated, rose by 5,192 seers to 48,539 seers, slightly more than the whole of the increase being in issues of excise opium. Issues increased in 22 Districts, remained the same in one (Salween), and decreased in 9 Districts. The continued scarcity of shipping has decreased imports of illicit opium, thus making consumers go to the Government shops for their supply. There was a very large increase of 2,182 seers in Rangoon Town, due to immigration of Chinese into Rangoon, owing to political troubles in China, and to the closing of the Chinese clubs, which caused Chinamen who had been catered for in these establishments from illicit sources, to resort to the Government shops. The influx of Chinese is responsible also for considerable increases in Pegu, Myaungmya, Ma-ubin and Pyapön. Mining development is responsible for an increase of 1,097 seers in Tavoy. The scarcity of Chinese opium and the consequent rise in the price of illicit opium to a level above the Government retail rate, was the main factor in a general increase in the northern Districts of the Province. The only noteworthy decrease was in Toungoo where issues fell by 101 to 1,226 seers, in consequence of the emigration of consumers in search of employment. The incidence of consumption per 100 of the total population rose from 41 seer to 45 seer. The rise is attributable to decreased facilities for obtaining illicit opium. Smuggling declined during the year. Smuggling by sea has diminished owing to the curtailment and disorganisation of the steamer services. Smuggling by land from China and the Shan States has diminished as opium finds a better market in China than in Burma. The hawking of shop opium has declined owing to the stricter supervision of allowances. The number of persons arrested for offences under the Opium Act fell from 2,925 in 1915-16 to 2,672 and the number of convictions from 2,411 to 2,179. The percentage of convictions fell from 82.4 to 81.5. The total quantity of opium seized fell by 8.01 per cent. to 1,360 seers. The conviction of a Jewish smuggler for possession of opium concealed in tins of Talcum face-powder brought to light the operations of a powerful syndicate of Jewish smugglers in Calcutta. The wholesale price of opium issued was raised by Rs. 5 per seer in the case of all shops except three for which the increase was larger. During the year sanction was given for a general revision of the wholesale rates with the object of fixing them so as to give licensees an uniform gross profit of Rs. 10 per seer on the estimated sales, the normal wholesale price being varied according to a definite scale where sales are either very large or very small. Retail prices were raised one anna per tola all round, following the increase in wholesale prices. During the year the license fees also were revised so as to make them bear the authorised proportion to estimated gross profit, namely one-quarter.

Excise—
Liquors.

149. The total quantity of liquors of all sorts imported into Burma was 674,823 gallons, a decrease of 32.1 per cent. on the figures for the previous year.

The decrease in value, however, was only 4·9 per cent. owing to increased cost in the countries of origin and increased freights. Imports of ale, beer and porter fell by 271,598 gallons to 448,223 gallons. Potable spirits decreased in quantity by 50,938 gallons to 196,668 gallons, but rose in value from Rs. 18·94 lakhs to Rs. 19·27 lakhs. Under this head whisky was the largest item, the quantity imported being 80,509 gallons. The issues of fermented malt liquor from the only brewery of the Province rose during the year by 27 per cent. to 191,868 gallons. The duty on the amount manufactured rose by 79 per cent. to Rs. 53·96, a record figure. The increase is due to the larger output and the increase of duty which came into operation near the end of the previous year. Foreign spirit was manufactured during the year at distilleries in Mandalay, Toungoo and Amherst. Clearances from bond of spirit excised at the tariff rate decreased by 26 per cent. to 8,861 London Proof gallons. Issues at privileged rates to troops and military police increased by nearly 38 per cent. to 15,020 gallons. The amount of duty realized rose by Rs. 565 to Rs. 1·54 lakhs. The number of wholesale licenses for the sale of foreign liquors, including imported liquor and local liquor excised at the tariff rate, fell by 2 to 93. The number of licenses for retail sale of foreign liquor in public houses decreased by 5 to 169. Special retail licenses increased by 20 to 155, the increase being more than accounted for by a rise in the number of temporary and of canteen licenses. License fees for the vend of malt liquors fell by 17·1 per cent. to Rs. 23,935, and those for the vend of other foreign liquors by 11·7 per cent. to Rs. 7·22 lakhs. The total issues of country spirit which is regulated on the contract distillery system increased by 8·7 per cent. to 78,459 gallons while duty increased by 12·5 per cent. to Rs. 3·57 lakhs. The increase is at the expense of the more costly foreign liquors and is due to economy enforced by war conditions. Out of 16 Districts, 9 showed increased issues. The principal increases were in Rangoon, Thaton, Tavoy and Mergui, and the principal decreases in Akyab and Bassein. The number of licenses for the vend of country spirit remained at 144 the same as in the previous year. License fees increased by Rs. 2,036 to Rs. 2·51 lakhs. There was no change in the position or number of outstills or of shops licensed for the vend of outstill liquor. Receipts fell by 6 per cent. to Rs. 17,520. The number of licenses for the sale of *tari* or country fermented liquor fell by 20 to 636. License fees fell by nearly 3 per cent. to Rs. 6,87,214. *Tari* seems to be giving place to other country fermented liquor, especially in Lower Burma. Licenses for the sale of country fermented liquor other than *tari* rose by 5 to 375. License fees rose by 9·8 per cent. to Rs. 25·13 lakhs. The only Districts that showed decreases were Prome, Toungoo and Myitkyina.

For offences relating to country spirit there were 2,412 arrests and 1,916 convictions (79 per cent.) against 2,219 arrests and 1,738 convictions (78 per cent.) in the previous year. Included in the above are 933 convictions for illicit distillation as compared with 861 in 1915-16. For offences relating to country fermented liquor of all classes, there were 4,942 arrests and 3,904 convictions (79 per cent.) against 4,373 arrests and 3,520 convictions (80 per cent.). The convictions in connection with country alcoholic liquor generally rose by 562 or over 10 per cent. to 5,820. Of these, 2,000 took place in five Districts, Tharrawaddy (500), Thaton (486), Henzada, Amherst and Bassein. Thaton was easily first in convictions for illicit distillation and Tharrawaddy enjoyed a similar pride of place for convictions in connection with country fermented liquor.

During the year the duty on denatured spirit was abolished.

15C. The quantity of ganja seized during the year rose by 50 per cent. to 190,557 tolas (nearly 2·2 tons). Convictions of all kinds rose by 47 per cent. to 738. The use of the drug by others than Indians is negligible. The only reported use of it by Burmans is in the Insein District where 9 out of a total Burmese population of 223,896 are said to be addicted to the drug.

Ganja,
cocaine and
morphia.

Cocaine licenses rose again by 3 to 40 the same figure as in 1914-15. The amount seized fell a little short of 50 lbs. avoirdupois which is double the figure for the previous year, but 83 lbs. less than that for 1914-15, and less than a quarter of the figures for 1910-11 and 1913-14. Convictions fell by a third to 594.

Conv. V-
Sums
and
Fines

Convictions for unlicensed sale show a slight increase. Stocks of German cocaine in the Province are dwindling and recent importations are of Japanese origin.

Licenses for the sale of morphia by pharmacists rose by 3 to 45. Sei ures fell by 6 lbs. to just below 14 lbs. avoirdupois. Convictions fell by 34 to 274. This drug seems to be distributed from 8 centres only, namely, Rangoon, one or two villages near Rangoon, Pegu and Okkan in the Pegu District, Okpo in the Tharrawaddy District, and Henzada and Danbi in the Henzada District.

Stamps.

252. The gross receipts under the Stamp Act and the Court Fees Act amounted to Rs. 36.65 lakhs as against Rs. 35.15 lakhs in the previous year and Rs. 34.28 lakhs in 1914-15. In 1914-15, which included the first eight months of the war there was, as compared with the preceding year, a fall of nearly three lakhs of rupees in receipts under the Stamp Act partly counterbalanced by a rise of one lakh of rupees in receipts under the Court Fees Act. Both these variations were due to the contraction of credit and other business difficulties which followed the outbreak of the war. Since this first year the receipts under both Acts have increased steadily and the total for the year of report is higher than that of any single year since 1911-12. Receipts from the sale of Court-fee stamps increased from Rs. 20.59 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 20.95 lakhs in 1916-17. The rise which marked the first year of the war has thus been maintained. The increase in the year of report is attributable to the payment in Rangoon of a single fee of Rs. 84,657 in an administration case. Receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps, comprising both engraved sheets, and impressed labels, which two classes of stamps, being used for similar transactions, are dealt with together, rose from Rs. 11.25 lakhs in 1915-16 to Rs. 12.22 lakhs. Receipts from this source were over Rs. 12½ lakhs in each of the two years preceding the outbreak of war. There was a fall of over Rs. 2 lakhs in 1914-15, the first shock of the outbreak of war having brought about a considerable restriction both of commercial transactions and of the business of financing agriculture. Later the blow to agricultural credit produced an increasing number of transactions providing improved security for loans or involving the complete transfer of previously mortgaged land to money-lenders by deeds of sale. The gradual recovery of trade added to the effect of these transactions on the revenue, which in consequence is almost up to the pre-war level. The depressing effect of the war on the money market is reflected in the fall in receipts from stamps for *hundis* or inland bills of exchange. There was a slight recovery in the year of report when receipts rose from Rs. 22,444 to Rs. 31,180. But the average annual receipts for the past triennium are only Rs. 26,870 as against Rs. 48,081 for the previous triennium. Receipts from foreign bill stamps, used for bills of exchange drawn outside British India rose during the year from Rs. 30,092 to Rs. 36,034. The revenue from the sale of other general stamps and miscellaneous receipts rose during the year from Rs. 77,355 to Rs. 79,216. Sales of share-transfer stamps yielded Rs. 13,724 as against Rs. 11,340 in the previous year and stamps for forms of cheques, receipts and brokers' notes Rs. 32,283 as against Rs. 29,555. Receipts from stamps for legal practitioners' licenses fell from Rs. 17,845 to Rs. 14,942. During the year the total number of stamp vendors decreased from 2,509 to 2,313. The large decrease is mainly due to the withdrawal of licenses from village-headmen in the Tharrawaddy District, in consequence of the failure of the attempt begun in 1914-15, to make stamps readily procurable in jungle villages by issuing vendors' licenses to the headmen of important villages. The amount of commission drawn by vendors rose by Rs. 3,093 to Rs. 49,885. No serious misconduct on the part of licensed vendors came to light during the year. The number of cases of insufficiently stamped documents dealt with by the courts decreased from 949 in the previous year to 919 and the amount of duty and penalties realized from Rs. 11,576 to Rs. 10,941. The number of cases dealt with by Collectors on impoundment or adjudication increased from 360 to 398 and the amount realized from Rs. 5,991 to Rs. 6,348. The number of persons brought to trial for offences against the stamp law was 45 and the number of persons convicted

38, as against corresponding figures of 44 and 34 in the previous year. Fines amounted to Rs. 245 and rewards to Rs. 696 as against Rs. 450 and Rs. 823 respectively. The number of reports made to Collectors regarding the valuation of estates in connection with applications for probate or letters of administration was 470, as compared with 409 in 1915-16, and the number of cases in which inquiries were held 423 as against 346. The total of deficit court-fees required was Rs. 10,185, as against Rs. 3,068 in 1915-16, the increase being attributable to one estate of exceptionally high value in Hanthawaddy.

Charges on account of discount and establishment for the sale of stamps increased from Rs. 61,259 to Rs. 63,089, cost of supervision increased from Rs. 24,721 to Rs. 25,177 and cost of stamps from Rs. 6,606 to Rs. 10,041. The total net receipts increased from Rs. 34'11 lakhs to Rs. 35'62 lakhs.

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152. Receipts and expenditure under the head "Assessed Taxes" are credited and debited respectively in equal shares to Imperial and Provincial Funds. The Income-tax Act is applicable to the whole of Burma but was completely operative only in Lower Burma and in Mandalay Town. It was not extended to any new areas during the year. The method of assessment and agencies of collection remained unchanged. The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act came into force on 1st April 1916, its principal effect being to raise the maximum rate of assessment from 5 pies to one anna in the rupee. Early in 1917 the Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act of 1917 came into force, its principal provision empowering a Collector to serve a notice on any person whose income in the Collector's opinion is not less than a thousand rupees per annum to furnish a return of his income. The net yield of this tax for the year was Rs. 39'66 lakhs as compared with Rs. 24'52 lakhs in the preceding year. The net collections in Rangoon were Rs. 25'71 lakhs as against Rs. 14'52 lakhs. The number of assesseees paying income-tax on "salaries, pensions and gratuities paid by Government" decreased from 5,865 in the previous year to 5,506, while the amount of tax collected from them rose from Rs. 4'03 lakhs to Rs. 5'58 lakhs. The number of assesseees to the tax under the head "salaries, pensions and gratuities paid by Local Authorities" was 986 as against 1,046 in 1915-16 and the amount collected Rs. 58,984 as against Rs. 48,613. Nearly two-thirds of the assesseees under this head are employees of the Rangoon Municipality or of the Rangoon Port Trust and the decline is due to many of them having gone to the war. The number of persons who paid income-tax on "salaries paid by companies and other private employers" was 5,827 as against 5,584 in the previous year, an increase of 4 per cent., while the amount paid by them increased from Rs. 3'84 lakhs to Rs. 5'02 lakhs. The number of persons assessed in Rangoon in 1916-17 amounted to 4,766, which is 82 per cent. of the Provincial total and 5 in excess of the total for Rangoon in 1913-14. Outside Rangoon, the most important increase occurred in Tavoy where, owing to the recovery of the wolfram industry from the collapse consequent on the outbreak of war, the number of assesseees rose from 56 in 1915-16 to 178 in the year of report. The number of companies assessed to income-tax was 67 in 1916-17, as against 64 in the previous year, and payments were Rs. 13'70 lakhs as against Rs. 6'39 lakhs. The increase in the receipts is entirely due to the enhanced rate of taxation and if the old rates had been in force there would have been a decline of over 10 per cent. on the previous year's receipts. In Rangoon there were 148 companies on the register as against 162 in the previous year. Of these 59 were exempted on production of certificates of payment elsewhere, and 33 were declared to be non-assessable. The number of assesseees under the head "tax on income from other sources" rose from 14,124 to 14,797 and the amount paid from Rs. 9'14 lakhs to Rs. 14'41 lakhs. Of the total number 3,429 were in Rangoon Town as against a corresponding number of 3,357 in the previous year. Excluding Rangoon Town the number of assesseees rose from 10,767 to 11,368. The initial demand amounted to Rs. 19'79 lakhs from 16,923 assesseees. The disposal of objections and revisions by Collectors and Commissioners reduced the demand to Rs. 15'97 lakhs payable by 15,183 assesseees. Expenditure increased from Rs. 53,425 to Rs. 55,500 the largest figure yet recorded. The cost of collection, however, only amounted to 1'4 per cent. of the total amount

Assessed
taxes.

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collected, as against 2·18 per cent. in the previous year. Refunds rose from Rs. 26,157 to Rs. 50,216 of which Rangoon Town was responsible for Rs. 47,213. The outstanding balance at the close of the year was Rs. 1·66 lakhs as against Rs. 20,216 in 1915-16. Rangoon Town and Tavoy account for nearly the whole. The large balance of Rs. 1,10,692 in Rangoon is largely due to one assessor, whose assessment is Rs. 62,500, having been allowed to defer payment till April and there having been a similar delay in the case of two others whose combined assessments exceeded Rs. 28,000. There was an outstanding balance of Rs. 54,217 in Tavoy where, owing to a large increase in the number of assesses and the preoccupation of the District officials with other work, objections to assessments could not be dealt with before the close of the year. The total amount remitted during the year as irrecoverable was Rs. 16,526, a marked decrease on the figures of either of the two preceding years. The total number of coercive processes issued was 421 as against 339 in the previous year. Of the total, Rangoon Town accounted for 175 and Myaungmya District for 212.

(b) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

Provincial Receipts and Expenditure.

**Provincial
receipts.**

153. The Provincial receipts were Rs. 5,93·34 lakhs, as against Rs. 5,54·32 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 39·01 lakhs. Increases, occurring mainly under nine heads and totalling Rs. 48·2 lakhs, were partly set off by decreases mainly under four heads amounting to Rs. 9·19 lakhs. There was an increase of Rs. 5·82 lakhs under the head 'Land Revenue,' of Rs. 3·6 lakhs under 'Excise,' of Rs. 75 lakh under 'Stamps,' of Rs. 2·67 lakhs under 'Minor Works' and of Rs. 26·80 lakhs under 'Forests.' There were small increases under the heads 'Ports and Pilotage,' 'Medical' and 'Scientific.' The large increase under 'Forests' is due to a good floating season. There was a decrease of over Rs. 28 lakh under the head 'Jails,' of nearly Rs. 32 lakh under 'Police,' of Rs. 70 lakh under "Miscellaneous" and of Rs. 7·76 lakhs under the head 'Transfer between Imperial and Provincial.' Considering that the contribution from Imperial Funds was Rs. 7·76 lakhs less than in the previous year, the real improvement in Provincial receipts on the figures of the previous year amounted to Rs. 46·77 lakhs.

**Provincial
expenditure.**

154. The Provincial expenditure for the year was Rs. 5,59·06 lakhs, as against Rs. 5,64·06 lakhs in the previous year. The total decrease of just under Rs. 5 lakhs is the result of a decrease of Rs. 15·7 lakhs, occurring mainly under six heads, partly counterbalanced by an increase of Rs. 10·7 lakhs, occurring mainly under eleven heads. The most outstanding decrease is one of Rs. 10·86 lakhs under the head 'Civil Works—Public Works' due mainly to a smaller outlay on new works. There was a decrease of Rs. 2·4 lakhs in expenditure under the head "Land Revenue," of Rs. 8 lakh under "Medical," and of Rs. 95 lakh under 'Political.' There were smaller decreases under 'Sanitation' and 'Stationery.' The head showing the largest increase in expenditure was 'Civil Works—Civil' with an increase of Rs. 4·67 lakhs, due to contributions made to District Funds in Upper Burma for the maintenance of Provincial roads made over to these funds. There was an increase of Rs. 1·61 lakhs under "Ports and Pilotage" due to the enhanced cost of stores and coal and one of Rs. 1·02 lakhs under "General Administration." There were smaller increases, ranging between Rs. 62 lakh and Rs. 26 lakh, under the heads 'Refunds,' 'Forests,' 'Jails,' 'Education,' 'Agriculture,' 'Scientific,' 'Superannuation' and 'Minor Works.'

Forests.

155. The Forest Department Report deals with the year ending on the 30th June 1917, and the figures of revenue and expenditure given in it therefore differ from those compiled in the Finance Department. The gross revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 1,27·09 lakhs, as against Rs. 96·64 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 30·55 lakhs.

The gross revenue exceeds that of the previous record year, 1912-13, by Rs. 11'33 lakhs. The actual surplus shows an increase of less than a lakh of rupees on the surplus of that year as the expenditure on exploitation has meanwhile increased by over Rs. 8 lakhs and that on establishment by nearly Rs. 3 lakhs.

There was an increase under every head of revenue except that of minor produce extracted by consumers. Under that head there was a fall of Rs. '55 lakh to Rs. 2'84 lakhs, the decrease being more than covered by a drop of Rs. 1'28 lakhs in the export duty on cutch. The revenue from timber extracted by Government agency rose by nearly Rs. 12½ lakhs to Rs. 27'05 lakhs, mainly owing to a better market. It is practically identical with the revenue of 1912-13, when the price of teak was Rs. 103 per ton, as against Rs. 59-8-0 in the year of report. The revenue from timber extracted by consumers rose by over Rs. 16½ lakhs to Rs. 83'23 lakhs. This was mainly due to a good floating season and to a lesser extent, to a somewhat improved market. The increased consumption of wood fuel, owing to the difficulty of obtaining coal, is responsible for a rise in revenue from produce other than timber extracted by Government agency by some Rs. 28,000 to Rs. 1'94 lakhs, and from firewood and charcoal extracted by consumers by a quarter of a lakh of rupees to Rs. 2'61 lakhs. The total expenditure of the year was Rs. 50'91 lakhs as against Rs. 47'62 lakhs in the previous year. As an economy necessitated by the war, expenditure on the extension and constitution of forests was reduced by over half a lakh of rupees to Rs. 1'15 lakhs, and expenditure on improvement by Rs. 37,000 to Rs. 5'53 lakhs. Expenditure on exploitation rose by over Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 18'22 lakhs, an increase due to the progressive extension of departmental operations. The expenditure on establishment rose by Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 8'91 lakhs. The value of stocks of timber and other produce at the sale depôts of the department was Rs. 28'97 lakhs at the beginning of the year and Rs. 25'01 lakhs at its close.

Local Funds.

156. A District Cess Fund is maintained by every District in Lower Burma. No change occurred in the number of such funds during the year. The aggregate receipts of all the funds were Rs. 43'10 lakhs as against Rs. 35'44 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 7'67 lakhs. The main constituent items of the increase are one of Rs. 5'7 lakhs under the head 'Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers' and one of Rs. 1'77 lakhs under the head 'Miscellaneous.' Larger contributions sanctioned to the Tavoy and Mergui District Cess Funds for improvements in communication, account for the increase under the former head, while the increase under the latter was mainly due to contributions amounting to Rs. 1'5 lakhs made from Municipal and Local Funds to the Ma-ubin and Myaungmya District Cess Funds.

District
Cess
Funds.

The aggregate expenditure rose from Rs. 39'04 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 42'11 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 3'08 lakhs. There was an increase of Rs. 2'69 lakhs under the head 'Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers' and of Rs. 1'57 lakhs under 'Miscellaneous.' There was a decrease of Rs. 33,500 under 'Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers' and one of nearly Rs. 49,000 under 'Medical.' Refunds of just under two lakhs of rupees and of one lakh of rupees by the Tavoy and Mergui District Cess Funds, respectively, partly counterbalanced by smaller expenditure under certain heads account for the increase under the head 'Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers.' The increase under 'Miscellaneous' was mainly due to the contribution of Rs. 1'5 lakhs made by the Ma-ubin and Myaungmya District Cess Funds to Local and Municipal Funds. Smaller grants to hospitals and dispensaries account for the decrease under 'Medical.' The decrease under 'Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers' was largely due to smaller outlay in Hanthawaddy, Insein, Bassein, Ma-ubin, Pyapôn, Toungoo and Thatôn Districts, partly counterbalanced by larger outlay in Hénzada, Tavoy and Mergui. All funds were solvent at the close of the year. The aggregate closing balance of all the funds at that date was Rs. 26'51 lakhs as against Rs. 25'52 lakhs twelve months earlier.

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District
Funds.

157. Each District in Upper Burma maintains a District Fund. These Funds are not endowed, as the Lower Burma District Cess Funds are, with a cess on land revenue, but derive their income from various sources such as bazaar-rents, slaughter-house licenses, ferries, and contributions from Provincial Funds. The aggregate receipts during 1916-17 of all the District Funds were Rs. 12.12 lakhs as against Rs. 9.34 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 2.78 lakhs. The increase arose principally under the heads 'Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers,' 'Miscellaneous' and 'Police.' Contributions from Provincial funds aggregating Rs. 4.74 lakhs received in 1916-17, as against Rs. 3.03 lakhs in the previous year account for most of an increase of Rs. 1.82 lakhs under 'Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers.' Larger receipts from bazaar stall rents, especially in the Mandalay, Ruby Mines, Katha, Sagaing, Kyaukse and Myingyan Districts and contributions of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 14,000 made by Municipal and Local Funds to the Bhamo and Sagaing District Funds account for an increase of three-quarters of a lakh of rupees under 'Miscellaneous.' An increase of nearly Rs. 22,000 under the head 'Police' was due to large receipts under slaughter-house licenses in Shwebo, Yamethin and Meiktila. The aggregate expenditure during the year was Rs. 14.50 lakhs, as against Rs. 14.08 lakhs in the previous year. The increase occurred mainly under the heads 'Miscellaneous' and 'Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers' partly counterbalanced by smaller expenditure under 'Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers.' An increase of over Rs. 46,000 under 'Miscellaneous' was due to contributions granted to local Municipal Funds as well as to contributions from the Pakokku and Shwebo District Funds to the Magwe, Sagaing, and Lower Chindwin District Funds to cover overdrafts. Large expenditure under 'Boats, Bridges and Ferries,' 'Accommodation for Travellers' and 'Arboriculture' contributed to the increase of nearly Rs. 31,000 under 'Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers.' A decrease of over half a lakh of rupees under 'Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers' was due to smaller expenditure in most of the Districts. All the Funds had a credit balance at the close of the year. The aggregate closing balance of all the Funds at that date was Rs. 2.8 lakhs as against Rs. 5.18 lakhs twelve months earlier.

Other funds.

158. Other local funds consist of the Cantonment, Town, Port, Pilot, Rangoon Police Reward, Steam-boiler Inspection and Educational Syndicate Funds. The number of Cantonment Funds was seven as in the previous year. Their aggregate opening balance was Rs. 58,078 and the aggregate closing balance on the 31st March 1917 was Rs. 25,932. The total receipts, excluding debt-accounts, amounted to Rs. 1,86,604, and the total expenditure to Rs. 2,19,048. The corresponding figures for 1915-16 were Rs. 1,94,944 and Rs. 1,83,568 respectively, so that in the year of report the total income fell by Rs. 8,340 and the expenditure rose by Rs. 35,480. The decrease in receipts occurred in Rangoon, Maymyo and Bhamo, while Rangoon, Mandalay, Thayetmyo, Maymyo and Meiktila contributed to the increase in expenditure. In Rangoon the income as compared with that of the previous year fell by Rs. 12,009, the figures being Rs. 72,572 and Rs. 84,781 respectively. The decrease was under all heads. On the expenditure side there was an increase of Rs. 25,433, the figures for the year of report and for the previous year being Rs. 1,00,149 and Rs. 74,716 respectively. The increase was under all heads except "6—Medical." The chief increase was under "10—Public Works," the outlay being about Rs. 20,320 more than in the previous year. In Mandalay there was a net increase of Rs. 3,258 in receipts during the year as compared with those of the previous year, the figures being Rs. 61,696 and Rs. 58,438 respectively. The increase was under all heads except "V—Miscellaneous," the income under this head being less than that of the previous year by Rs. 2,324. There was also a grant of Rs. 9,100 from the Military Department as against Rs. 5,000 in the previous year. The increase in expenditure during the year was small, the figures being Rs. 62,842 as against Rs. 62,509 in the previous year. In Meiktila the receipts and expenditure were Rs. 11,705 and Rs. 12,710 as against Rs. 6,560 and Rs. 6,300 respectively in the previous year. The increase in receipts was under 'Conservancy taxes and fees,' the figures for the year of report and for the

previous year being Rs. 5,489 and Rs. 476 respectively. The excess expenditure occurred under "1—Refunds" and "7—Minor Departments" (conservancy establishment and contingencies). In Shwabo the receipts and expenditure during the year were Rs. 6,990 and Rs. 5,673 as compared with Rs. 5,945 and Rs. 6,077 in the previous year. The increase under receipts was chiefly due to increased grant-in-aid. In Thayetmyo the total receipts were more than those of the previous year by Rs. 1,905, the figures being Rs. 8,464 and Rs. 6,559. The expenditure was Rs. 7,825 as against Rs. 7,679 in the previous year. In Maymyo the income during the year was Rs. 18,023 or Rs. 5,290 less than that of the previous year, owing chiefly to a reduced grant-in-aid. There was an increase in expenditure by Rs. 5,723, the figures being Rs. 22,813 as against Rs. 17,090 of the previous year. In Bhamo the receipts and expenditure for the year of report were Rs. 7,223 and Rs. 7,036, as against Rs. 9,347 and Rs. 9,197 respectively in the previous year. The closing balances of the Rangoon, Mandalay, Meiktila and Maymyo Cantonment Funds were less than those of the previous year. The expenditure of the year exceeded the receipts by Rs. 27,577, Rs. 1,146, Rs. 1,005 and Rs. 4,790 respectively.

Owing to the creation of a Town Fund at Myitngè, the number of Town Funds at the end of the year was 20 as against 19 in the previous year. The total income and expenditure of these funds were Rs. 9,99,753 and Rs. 9,87,048 as compared with Rs. 8,39,226 and Rs. 9,20,828 respectively of the previous year. There was thus an increase of Rs. 1,60,527 in receipts and Rs. 66,220 in expenditure. The increase in receipts was for the most part due to contributions from Government. In four towns there was a decrease in expenditure aggregating Rs. 73,514, and five others contributed to an increase of Rs. 1,44,697 in expenditure, Maymyo alone being responsible for an increase of Rs. 55,627. The expenditure of the year exceeded the receipts in the case of ten towns. The aggregate closing balances, inclusive of the Myitngè Town Fund, amounted to Rs. 3,62,079, as compared with Rs. 3,49,343 in the previous year. In ten towns the closing balances were less than in the previous year. There were large closing balances in the case of four towns accumulated in order to make provision for special works, such as water-supply, drainage and roads. All the funds appear solvent. In Danabyu the closing balance was only Rs. 17, which is less than the prescribed minimum.

Excluding the Rangoon Port Trust there were six Port Funds. The total receipts and expenditure were Rs. 4,24,683 and Rs. 4,31,783, as compared with Rs. 4,03,130 and Rs. 4,23,672 respectively in the previous year. The increase in receipts occurred in Moulmein, Akyab and Tavoy. The last named fund was, however, not in a position to pay during the past year the full Public Works Department expenditure incurred on Port Fund works, and Government had to help it with a contribution. In Bassein, Mergui and Kyaukpyu the receipts were less than in the previous year. In Akyab and Kyaukpyu the expenditure of the year was in excess of the receipts, and the closing balances were consequently less than in the previous year. The closing balance of the Moulmein Port Fund was more than in the previous year by Rs. 12,639. The state of the finances of the fund was, however, not satisfactory, and the sanction of the Government of India has since been obtained to the extension of the period of repayment of the loan of Rs. 2 lakhs granted in 1908 from 10 to 15 years. The annual instalments and interest which fell due on 1st April 1915, 1st April 1916 and 1st April 1917 aggregating Rs. 26,909-2-7 were paid by the Port Fund in June 1917. The Tavoy Port Fund was not in a position to pay the annual instalment on the loan of Rs. 65,000 in addition to carrying out urgently needed improvements to the Port, and the sanction of the Government of India was obtained to the extension from 10 to 15 years of the term of the loan, and to the postponement till the 24th February 1919 of the payment of annual instalments of principal. Interest due on the loan up to the 24th February 1917 has been paid. The Moulmein and Tavoy Port Funds are indebted to Government to the extent of Rs. 70,813 and Rs. 68,335 respectively.

There are four Pilot Funds in Burma. The receipts are derived chiefly from pilotage fees, and the expenditure consisted mainly of cost of maintenance of pilot vessels and payment to pilots. The ordinary receipts of the Rangoon Pilot Fund

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during the year amounted to Rs. 2,91,680, while those of the previous year were Rs. 3,07,376. The ordinary expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,14,540, as against Rs. 3,36,751 of the previous year. The fund closed with a balance of Rs. 22,635, as compared with Rs. 17,865 in the previous year. The aggregate receipts of the Akyab, Moulmein, and Bassein Pilot Funds during the year were less than those of the previous year by Rs. 2,124, the figures being Rs. 1,10,791 and Rs. 1,12,015, respectively. The closing balances of the Akyab, Moulmein and Bassein Pilot Funds for the year were Rs. 5,279, Rs. 3,261 and Rs. 2,741, respectively, as against Rs. 8,976, Rs. 3,987 and Rs. 4,163 in the previous year.

The receipts and expenditure of the Rangoon Police Reward Fund during the year of report were Rs. 398 and Rs. 401 respectively, as against Rs. 451 and Rs. 505 in the previous year.

The receipts and expenditure of the Steam-boiler Inspection Fund during the year of report were Rs. 85,424 and Rs. 81,361, respectively as compared with Rs. 93,081 and Rs. 71,226 of the previous year.

The income of the Educational Syndicate Fund was Rs. 53,085 and the expenditure was Rs. 55,274.

Road and Education Cesses.

159. In Lower Burma contributions to education and local public works are made by the District Cess Funds which have been discussed in paragraph 136. No special cesses for these purposes are levied in the Province.

Municipal Revenues.

Rangoon
Municipa-
lity.

160. The gross receipts of the year including the opening balance (Rs. 1'06 lakhs) amounted to Rs. 51'68 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 58'22 lakhs in the previous year with an opening balance of Rs. 9'64 lakhs. Excluding the opening balance the total receipts for the year exceeded the total receipts for 1915-16 by more than two lakhs of rupees. Excluding the opening balance and receipts falling under the budget heads "Extraordinary" and "Debt," the ordinary income of the year was Rs. 45'48 lakhs, as against Rs. 44'19 lakhs in the previous year. Owing to large advances made from revenue for expenditure on works for which loans are to be raised, the Municipal Fund account at the end of the year was overdrawn to the extent of Rs. 1'63 lakhs against the overdraft of Rs. 5 lakhs from the Bank of Bengal sanctioned by the Local Government. The gross expenditure for the year was Rs. 53'31 lakhs as against Rs. 57'17 lakhs in the previous year. Eliminating charges on works paid from loans and the figures under suspense account, a total of Rs. 43'95 lakhs is obtained as the ordinary expenditure compared with Rs. 45'27 lakhs in the previous year. The expenditure from loan money amounted to Rs. 65,934, against Rs. 1'18 lakhs in the previous year. In addition to the expenditure of Rs. 65,934, a sum of Rs. 3'24 lakhs was advanced from revenue for works for which loans are to be raised. Including the advances made in the previous year, the total sum advanced from revenue amounted on the 31st March 1917 to Rs. 17'56 lakhs and will be adjusted when loans are raised for the works. Besides this sum a further sum of Rs. 3'86 lakhs has been temporarily appropriated for expenditure on new works from unexpended loan money which had previously been raised for carrying out certain works which have been postponed. The income derived from rates and taxes increased by some Rs. 56,000 to Rs. 33'99 lakhs. Of the increase some Rs. 38,000 consist of arrears paid by the Burma Railways Company, and the rest is due to the normal expansion of the town. The amount realized under special acts increased by Rs. 11,316 to Rs. 45,434. A rise of some Rs. 11,000 in the receipts from hackney carriage license-fees accounts for most of the increase. The revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation, rose from Rs. 9'51 lakhs to Rs. 9'89 lakhs, the increase being distributed over nearly all the miscellaneous sources of revenue. Among the principal items of expenditure,

charges for general administration and collection rose by Rs. 18,284 to Rs. 2'70 lakhs. Expenditure on public safety fell by some Rs. 47,000 to Rs. 2'0 lakhs, there being a fall in expenditure connected with the Fire Brigade of Rs. 52,849 to Rs. 74,438, and a rise in expenditure on street lighting of Rs. 6,192 to Rs. 2'15 lakhs. Expenditure on public health and convenience fell from Rs. 27'08 lakhs to Rs. 25'1 lakhs, mainly on account of a decrease in expenditure on roads from Rs. 6'77 lakhs to Rs. 4'79 lakhs.

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Excluding loans raised for the Town Lands Reclamation Fund, which are noticed below, the loans outstanding on 1st April 1916 amounted to Rs. 1,32'30 lakhs. The yearly instalment of Rs. 57,500 towards the repayment of the 1887 loan of Rs. 23 lakhs was duly paid and at the end of the year the Municipality was indebted to the extent of Rs. 1,31'73 lakhs exclusive of the loans for reclamation works. The loan charges for the year amounted to Rs. 10'32 lakhs being Rs. 57,500 for repayment, Rs. 5'84 lakhs for interest, Rs. 3'82 lakhs for the Sinking Fund, and Rs. 8,911 for management charges. On the 31st March 1917 the face value of the securities in the Sinking Fund (excluding the Sinking Fund for Reclamation loans), was Rs. 34'18 lakhs. Owing to the large advances made from revenue since the year 1913-14 on works for which loans have yet to be raised the cash balance of the Municipal Fund was overdrawn to the extent of Rs. 1'63 lakhs.

The loans raised for reclamation purposes outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 60'5 lakhs against securities in the Sinking Fund of the face value of Rs. 12'15 lakhs. The Fund opened with a credit balance of Rs. 4'31 lakhs on the 1st April 1916, of which Rs. 91,619, being the unexpended balance of the amount advanced for works in the previous year, was in the hands of the Deputy Accountant-General, Public Works Accounts, Burma. The receipts for the year were Rs. 6'70 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs. 8'10 lakhs. The receipts included a sum of one lakh of rupees received from the Municipality in part payment for work done and Rs. 3,349 adjusted on account of stores purchased in previous years. The fund closed with a balance of Rs. 90,199 which includes an unexpended balance of Rs. 59,994 in the hands of the Deputy Accountant-General from advances made for works during the year.

161. Exclusive of debt accounts amounting to Rs. 2'02 lakhs, and of opening balances amounting to Rs. 16'48 lakhs, the total income of municipalities in the Province (omitting Rangoon) was Rs. 49'69 lakhs as compared with Rs. 46'11 lakhs in the previous year. This is the highest figure on record for the last 15 years. It is a matter for satisfaction that the income of municipalities has been affected remarkably little by the war. Ordinary expenditure showed a decline from Rs. 48'34 lakhs to Rs. 47'4 lakhs, due to a reduction in the activities of the various services, necessitated by the difficulty of procuring materials. The closing balances stood at Rs. 16'74 lakhs, a sum roughly Rs. 70,000 greater than the previous year's figure. The outstanding balances amounted to Rs. 28,155 as compared with Rs. 37,502 in the previous year. Over one-third of the amount outstanding (Rs. 10,510) at Tounghoo, represented arrears due chiefly to the delay in payment of taxes on Government buildings. The other large outstandings were Rs. 5,853 at Mandalay, Rs. 3,516 at Akyab, Rs. 1,639 at Myanaung, Rs. 1,580 at Kyangin and Rs. 1,286 at Pyinmana. Municipal rates and taxes produced a total of Rs. 18'26 lakhs, which exceeds by Rs. 38,445 the figure recorded in the previous year, and by Rs. 1'29 lakhs the average collections in the five preceding years. Realizations under special acts amounted to practically the same as in the preceding year. The only variation of note was at Tavoy where an increase in the number of motor cars enriched the Municipal Fund to the extent of nearly Rs. 4,000 in license fees. The total revenue from other sources rose from Rs. 18'96 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 20'02 lakhs, the most noticeable increase being Rs. 47,574 at Mandalay, where a large sum was received as *salaams* from the bazaar lessee. At Bassein a comparatively large increase of Rs. 11,439 was for the greater part only apparent, as a sum of Rs. 9,228 was due to advance collection of bazaar stall rents of the ensuing year. There were also important increases of nearly Rs. 12,000 at Tavoy and over Rs. 10,000 at

Other
Municipal-
ties.

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Moulmein. Nearly two-thirds of the former sum was due to an increase in the number of firms making monthly contributions to cover hospital charges for the treatment of their employees, while a considerable part of the latter is attributed to the breaking up of a butcher's combine and a consequent increase in slaughter-house fees. Three-fourths of the municipalities have contributed to the increase under this head. The aggregate total of grants and contributions rose from Rs. 8.14 lakhs to Rs. 9.89 lakhs, of which Rs. 8.41 lakhs was from Government and Rs. 1.13 lakhs from local funds, while the greater part of the balance represented contributions received from the public by the Syriam, Moulmein and Tavoy Municipalities for medical purposes.

On the expenditure side, general administration and collection charges amounted to Rs. 4.92 lakhs, against Rs. 5.32 lakhs in the previous year. Expenditure under this head, however, includes "Refunds other than octroi" which totalled Rs. 1.32 lakhs. Of this latter amount Rs. 1.13 lakhs were refunds of Government contributions which could not be utilized. Variations in the expenditure under the heads, public safety, water-works, sanitation, conservancy, hospitals and dispensaries, markets, public works, and public instruction have been noticed in Chapter III of this Report. The liabilities on account of interest rose from Rs. 1.14 lakhs to Rs. 1.29 lakhs owing to an increase in the amount of interest paid by the Mandalay Municipality. No new loans were raised by any of the Committees.

Other Funds.

162. There are four educational endowment funds, namely the Jardine, the Maung Ohn Ghine, the Renoung and the Coplestone Funds. These funds do not bank with Government and their accounts do not therefore appear in the Government books. The accounts of the Official Assignee are similarly excluded.

Paper Currency.

163. The average total or gross circulation of currency notes in 1916-17 was Rs. 6,02.3 lakhs, as against Rs. 5,36.94 lakhs in 1915-16, Rs. 4,94 lakhs in 1914-15 and Rs. 5.27 lakhs in 1913-14. At the end of April 1916 the gross circulation was Rs. 5,81.63 lakhs. It fell to a minimum of Rs. 5,06.63 lakhs on the 15th August 1916 and rose to a maximum of Rs. 8,48.9 lakhs on the 24th February 1917. There is no reserve treasury in Burma and to determine the active or net circulation, the value of notes of the Rs. 10,000 denomination have been excluded from the gross circulation. For the year 1916-17 the average of the net or active circulation on the last day of each month was Rs. 5,46.58 lakhs, the similar average for 1915-16 being Rs. 4,82.24 lakhs and for 1914-15 Rs. 4.12 lakhs. The average net circulation of currency notes thus increased during the year of report by Rs. 64.34 lakhs. The average net circulation has increased steadily each year since 1907-08 with the exception of 1914-15 when there was a set-back, due to the disturbance of trade caused by the war, but in each of the last two years there has been a marked expansion. Notes of the 10-rupee denomination amounted to 59.53 per cent. of the total net circulation at the end of March 1917, and notes of the 100-rupee denomination amounted to Rs. 35.04 per cent.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

REFERENCES—

- Report on the Sanitary Administration of Burma for the year 1916.
Triennial Report on Hospitals and Dispensaries in Burma for the years 1914 to 1916.
Report on the working of the Burma Government Medical School, Rangoon, for the year 1916-17.
Report on the working of the Pasteur Institute and Bacteriological Laboratory for the period of eight months from the 1st August 1916 to the 31st March 1917.
Note on the Lamentic Anjemis in Burma for the year 1916.
Triennial Report on Vaccination in Burma for the years 1914-15 to 1916-17.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volume III.

Births and Deaths.

164. The system of registration of vital statistics remained the same as in previous years. The total area under registration, and the population upon which vital statistics ratios have been calculated, remained the same as in the previous year. The Sale Township of Myingyan District, comprising an area of 367 square miles and containing a population of 42,617, was in July 1916 transferred to Magwe District. The town of Myitnge, comprising a population of 3,688 in an area of 3 square miles, was from January 1916 constituted a notified area under a Town Committee in the Mandalay District. As a result there has been for the purposes of this report a diminution of the total rural population to 8,753,451 and a corresponding increase of the total urban population to 1,102,402.

Area under
registration
and total
population.

165. The number of registered births exceeded registered deaths in Lower Burma by 62,169, and in Upper Burma by 33,824, showing a total increase of 9·7 per mille of the whole population of the Province. The total of registered births in 1916 was 332,227, of which 171,133 were males and 161,094 females, the proportion of the males born to every 100 females being 106. The Provincial birth-rate was 33·71 against 35·13 in 1915. The birth-rates for Lower and Upper Burma respectively were 32·75 and 35·30. The corresponding rates for 1915 were 33·39 and 38·01 and the previous five years' means 32·38 and 35·56. The rural birth-rate for the Province was 34·58, for Lower Burma 33·96 and Upper Burma 35·56. The urban birth-rates for the same areas were 26·81, 24·41, and 32·57. In Lower Burma, Bassein, Kyaukpyu and Toungoo Districts recorded very low birth-rates; in Upper Burma the lowest birth-rate was recorded in the Meiktila District. The total of registered deaths for the Province in 1916 was 236,234 against 275,849 in 1915. Of these 196,508 occurred in rural areas, and 39,726 in towns. The Provincial death-rate was 23·97 against 27·99 in 1915 and 24·13 in 1914. The rural death-rate was 22·45 and urban death-rate 36·04. Both were less than the mean of the previous five years. It is satisfactory to note that, with the exception of Madras, Burma records the lowest Provincial death-rate in India for 1916. The death-rates for Lower and Upper Burma respectively were 22·61 and 26·21, for rural areas 20·84 and 24·99, and for urban areas 34·82 and 38·95. All the Districts in Lower Burma except Tavoy, Pyapōn and Mergui, record lower rural death-rates than the mean of the previous five years; while in Upper Burma 9 out of 12 Districts, *viz.*, Mandalay, Sagaing, Lower Chindwin, Thayetmyo, Pakōkku, Minbu, Meiktila, Kyaukse and Myingyan, similarly record death-rates below the five years' mean. The Provincial rate of infant mortality per mille of births in 1916 was 206·34 as against 219·35 in 1915 and 216·36 in 1914. The Upper Burma rate was 35 per mille higher than that of Lower Burma. In the rural areas of Lower Burma a decrease in recorded infantile mortality was noticeable in all the four Divisions. Of individual Districts, Prome, Bassein, Pyapōn, Tavoy and Mergui, alone showed an

Number of
births and
deaths.

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increase over the figures for the previous year. In Upper Burma only three Districts of the Magwe Division, *vis.*, Thayetmyo, Minbu and Magwe, recorded rural infantile death-rates in excess of those for the previous year, and in rural areas of all other Districts there was an appreciable fall in infant mortality. Substantial annual contributions are being made by the Local Government to the Societies for the Prevention of Infantile Mortality, at Rangoon, Mandalay, and Moulmein, and the work of these Societies is being better organized than in previous years. Similar Societies were started during the year at Pyapôn, Kyaiklat, and Bogale. At Sagaing, the maternity ward, which is under the direction of a local committee of ladies, has attained much popularity, and women from villages outside the town have applied for and obtained admittance thereto for the period of their confinement. During the year 114 women were safely confined in the ward. Some 26.54 per cent. of births registered in the town took place in the maternity ward.

Causes of
Death.

166. The registered mortality for different causes in 1916 is compared below with the figures for 1915 :—

	1916.	1915.
Cholera	1,673	17,597
Small-pox	707	317
Plague	7,702	4,640
Fevers	77,691	84,340
Dysentery and diarrhoea	7,040	11,386
Respiratory diseases	8,400	8,529
Suicide	204	199
Wounding or accident	1,807	1,778
Snakebite or killed by wild beasts	2,027	2,052
Rabies	27	27
All other causes	128,036	144,024
Total	236,234	275,849

There was a decrease in 1916 of 39,615 deaths from the figures recorded for 1915, due mainly to a diminished mortality from cholera, dysentery and diarrhoea, fevers and "all other causes." The epidemic of cholera, which assumed serious proportions in the later months of 1915, continued with diminishing intensity in Lower Burma generally until May of 1916, and during June in the Irrawaddy Division. In Upper Burma it died away in January everywhere except in Meiktila District, which returned 15 deaths in February. In rural areas 1,081 deaths were recorded for Lower Burma and 189 for Upper Burma. Only 403 deaths were returned by urban areas of the Province, of which 386 occurred in Lower Burma and 17 in Upper Burma. There were 232 deaths from small-pox in rural areas, of which 206 occurred in Lower Burma and 26 in Upper Burma. The towns of Lower Burma returned 443 deaths from this disease, of which 343 occurred in Rangoon. In Upper Burma, Mandalay with 23 deaths, and Sagaing with 8 deaths, were the only towns infected. In Lower Burma epidemic plague had obtained a firm hold in Rangoon Town and Tharrawaddy, Bassein, Henzada and Toungoo Districts, by the opening of the year 1916, and indications of serious outbreaks appeared in three other Districts during January and February, *vis.*, Pegu, Amherst, and Prome. Prome District was subject to epidemic plague throughout the year. In Amherst District the plague outbreak became serious in March, with 80 deaths. Thereafter the mortality fluctuated, again reaching 80 in July, after which it decreased. The epidemic in Pegu District continued till August, when it declined. As in previous years the whole of the Arakan Division, and Tavoy and Mergui Districts of Tenasserim Division, were free of plague infection. The great majority of deaths in both Lower and Upper Burma occurred in the towns, *vis.*, 6,649, against 3,711 in 1915, the rural mortality being 1,053 against 929 in the previous year. In Lower Burma 24,889 and in Upper Burma 38,569 persons were inoculated against plague in 1916. No less than 7,089 inoculations were carried out in Mōnywa Town, with a census population of under 9,000 persons. In Yenangyaung with a slightly larger population 3,056 persons were inoculated. In Myaungmya (6,561 population) 2,228, and in Yamethin Town (8,083 population) 2,407 inoculations were performed. The number of rats destroyed in 1916, as reported, was 436,218, of which 385,161 were killed in Rangoon. In Upper

Burma out of 16,332 rats destroyed, 12,677 are returned from the Northern Shan States. Mortality-rates under fevers for Lower and Upper Burma were 7'64 and 8'28 against 8'24 and 9'05 in 1915. Except for Hanthawaddy, Pyawon, Tavoy, and Mergui Districts in Lower Burma, and Thayetmyo and Minbu Districts in Upper Burma, the fever death-rate was less everywhere in 1916 than in 1915. In Mandalay and Kyaukse Districts particularly there was a fall from 12'27 and 12'12 respectively, in 1915, to 9'75 and 9'93 in 1916.

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167. The outturn by the Rangoon Central Jail Quinine Department of five-grain tablets was 5,208,890, and of one-grain tablets 5,085,800. The year opened with a balance in hand of 19,540 five-grain, and 368,700 one-grain tablets. During the year 5,015,380 five-grain and 5,312,507 one-grain tablets were issued to authorized recipients. About 4,350 lbs. of raw quinine sulphate was utilized in the manufacture. The cost of manufacture of the tablets (exclusive of labour and supervision) amounted to Rs. 34,870-6-0, and the packing charges to Rs. 870. Some 98,046 packets containing 400 grains each were disposed of by Treasury Officers and Deputy Commissioners, being 25,679 packets in excess of the retail issue in 1915. Of this total 1,409 packets were issued gratis to inhabitants of malarious tracts. The average quantity per head of population of the Province disposed of through the approved agencies was 3'32 grains.

Quinine.

Emigration and Immigration.

168. The total of immigrants into Burma through the ports of Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Moulmein, Rangoon, Tavoy and Mergui, was 258,841, a decrease of 80,049; and the total of emigrants from these ports 252,348, an increase of 3,272 on the previous year. The excess population of immigration over emigration was 6,493, or 83,321 less than in 1915. Rangoon returned 229,159 immigrants, and 200,898 emigrants, against 291,968 immigrants and 198,715 emigrants in 1915. Of the emigrants 167,174 were bound for Indian ports.

Medical Relief.

169. Four new institutions were opened and one closed during the year, and thus at the end of the year there were 282 hospitals and dispensaries.

Hospitals
and dispensa-
ries.

170. The number of patients treated at various institutions totalled 1,858,485 against 1,791,792 in 1915. The daily average attendance among indoor and outdoor patients rose from 3,113 and 9,025 in 1915 to 3,316 and 9,411 respectively in the year of report.

Attendance
and treat-
ment.

The chief diseases treated in order of prevalence were:—

All diseases of the digestive system other than dyspepsia, diarrhoea, hepatic diseases, dysentery, cholera, enteric, appendicitis and kala azar.

Malaria.

Ulcers.

Diseases of the skin other than ulcers.

All diseases of the respiratory system except pneumonia and tubercle of the lungs.

Injuries.

Diseases of the eye.

Dyspepsia.

Diseases of the ear.

There were 863 cases of small-pox, 642 cases of plague, and 138 cases of cholera against 338, 248 and 787 respectively in 1915. There were 4,292 deaths among in-patients treated during the year, the death-rate being 6'29 per cent. against 6'43 in 1915. The attendance of Burmese and other indigenous races shows a steady increase from year to year. Women and children availed themselves of hospital treatment more frequently than last year. The 'Discrimination Scheme' in force at the hospitals at Rangoon, Maymyo and Mandalay has been a success. At the Burma Pasteur Institute, Rangoon, 322 persons were treated for dog-bite.

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General.

171. Expenditure for medical relief amounted to Rs. 18,72,930, against Rs. 20,73,852 in 1915, showing a decrease of Rs. 2,00,922. The cadre of Indian Medical Service Officers was increased by three, but the addition of two officers will have effect after the end of the war. Owing to the withdrawal of most of the Military officers, the majority of the civil surgeoncies have been filled by Civil Assistant Surgeons. No additions were made to the cadre of Sub-Assistant Surgeons during 1916, but the shortage rose to 21 at the end of the year from 14 at the beginning of the year. Under the Results-System Midwife Scheme, 15 midwives qualified and ten others are under training. Under a recent re-arrangement, five candidates are entertained every six months and sent to the Dufferin Hospital, Rangoon, for training in Midwifery alone for one year. The Nurses' scheme brought into force last year in the General Hospital, Rangoon, is to be tried at Mandalay and also at Moulmein. There are now 10 women under training at the General Hospital, Rangoon, and 3 at the Civil Hospital, Mandalay. The Burma Medical Act came into operation on the 4th December 1915 and was in force in the year of report. The number of pupils at the Burma Government Medical School, Rangoon, was 100 against 75 in 1915. Of the 40 new admissions, the number who have passed the Matriculation or the High School Final or the Senior Cambridge Examination total 31 or 77·5 per cent. against 37·5 in the previous year. The qualifications of the candidates seeking admissions in the school are improving yearly. Sixteen passed the final qualifying examination against five in 1915. It is proposed to re-organize the school to train 50 students yearly as the Governments of Madras and Punjab have expressed their inability to supply Sub-Assistant Surgeons from their Provinces.

Lunatic
Asylums.

172. The number of inmates of the Rangoon and Minbu Lunatic Asylums at the end of the year increased to 706 from 641 in 1915. The daily average strength was 702·54, against 623·18 in 1915. In the Rangoon Lunatic Asylum, overcrowding was the order of the day, and want of space added to want of buildings made matters difficult. The mortality at the two asylums fell from 8·50 per cent. in 1915 to 6·26 per cent. The total expenditure of both the asylums amounted to Rs. 1,47,938 against Rs. 1,69,194 in 1915. In Rangoon, the average cost of dieting a lunatic was only Rs. 69 against Rs. 86 in 1915, and in Minbu, the average cost per head fell from Rs. 124 in 1915 to Rs. 109. The Manufacturing Department worked at a net profit of Rs. 16,324 against Rs. 16,517 in 1915.

Sanitation.

Principal
works and
expenditure.

173. There was only one meeting of a Divisional Sanitary Board held at Mawlaik in the Upper Chindwin District on the 26th June 1916. This was in connection with the arrangements to be made for the removal of the District headquarters from Kindat to Mawlaik. The Committee inspected the Civil Station and town sites, and found the progress made very satisfactory. They decided upon the adoption of an infiltration well scheme for the water-supply of the town. Many circumstances have combined to retard progress in the provision of a protected water-supply at stations for which schemes had been prepared and sanctioned. Physical conditions have provided the most serious of these obstacles to the sinking of tube wells, the strata bored through, to a great depth in some cases, either failing to yield any potable water, or affording too small a quantity. In the Meiktila District a great thickness of sandstone has been found to underlie the surface cap of calcareous soil, and no water has yet been reached by this method of search. The difficulty in Myingyan Town took the form of saline deposits, which, up till the year of report, frustrated every attempt to obtain a potable supply. At last a copious supply of excellent water has been found, on the margin of an old river-channel and the problem of finding a satisfactory source of water-supply for the town appears to have been solved. Elsewhere difficulties were presented by a big rise in the price of pipes and machinery, which had to be ordered from Europe. And, more recently, the difficulties imposed by the war in obtaining

freightage has put a stop to all such supplies. Attention is now being directed rather to obtaining supplies from upland collecting areas, than from underground sources which have been searched for in vain in so many places. Municipal Committees spent 43.37 per cent. of their income on sanitary works, *viz.*, 12.69 on water-supply, 5.76 on drainage, 2.94 on conservancy and 11.98 on other details, but District Cess and District Funds spent only 8.03 per cent. of their total income on sanitary projects.

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Vaccination.

174. The strength of the vaccination establishment at the end of the year 1916-17 was 38 Native Superintendents of Vaccination and 299 vaccinators, as compared with 41 Native Superintendents and 297 vaccinators in the preceding year. The reduction in the cadre of Native Superintendents of Vaccination was due to the style of 3 of the appointments in the Southern Shan States being changed to that of "Head Vaccinator." The number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons who received an allowance for the supervision of vaccination in certain towns and municipalities in the year of report showed an increase by two over that of the previous year when the number was 22. Nine District vaccinators were removed or dismissed from the service for falsification of returns and diaries, and two Native Superintendents of Vaccination were required to resign their appointments on departmental grounds.

Establish-
ment.

175. The total number of persons vaccinated by the special staff, *i.e.*, Town and District Vaccinators, amounted to 545,819 as compared with 459,047 in 1915-16 an increase of 86,772. In addition to this, 4,077 persons were vaccinated at various hospitals and dispensaries, 2,652 by private agencies, and 24,388 in jails, making a total of 576,936 persons vaccinated. The total number of operations performed by Town and District Vaccinators amounted to 418,043 primary and 128,454 re-vaccinations, against 385,399 primary and 74,446 re-vaccinations in 1915-16, or an increase of 32,644 and 54,008 respectively under each head. Successful primary operations totalled 390,617, and successful re-vaccinations 50,071 showing an increase of 28,125 and 15,605 respectively on the previous year's return. The Districts in the Arakan Division, except Kyaukpyu, together showed a total increase of 4,035 in primary successes. In Kyaukpyu District a small deficit of 285 cases was recorded in primary successful operations. In Pegu Division an increase of 5,205 primary successes was recorded which was attributable to Insein District (2,109), Hanthawaddy (1,599), Tharrawaddy (1,100) and Prome (1,471). Rangoon Town District returned a deficit of 325 primary successes and Pegu 809. The Irrawaddy Division returned an increase of 5,851 shared by Ma-ubin (526), Pyapön (1,316), Bassein (991) and Myaungmya (3,705 or 58.8 per cent.) on the work of the previous year. Henzada District alone returned a deficit of 687 primary successes in this Division. In the Tenasserim Division only 3 out of 6 Districts showed an increase of 3,995 primary successes, Amherst District claiming 1,691, Mergui 243, and Toungoo 2,061. Tavoy, Thatön and Salween Districts together showed a deficit of 1,245; the net increase for the Division on the previous year's figures amounted to 2,750 primary successes. All the Districts in the Mandalay Division in the aggregate returned an increase of 1,227 successful primary operations. The newly-created District of Putao submitted returns of vaccination for the first time, and 242 primary operations were reported with 225 successes. The Shwebo, Sagaing and Upper Chindwin Districts in the Sagaing Division, together showed an increase of 1,086. The Lower Chindwin District showed a small deficit of 109 successful primary operations. Of the 4 Districts in the Magwe Division, Thayetmyo and Minbu together showed an increase of 1,435 while the remaining two Districts, Pakōkku and Magwe, returned a deficit of 664 primary successes. Two Districts in the Meiktila Division, Meiktila and Yamethin, contributed an increase of 2,602 primary successes. Myingyan returned a deficit of 1,123. The work in Kyaukse District was almost level with that of the previous year only a small deficit of 72

Number of
operations.

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SERVICES.

primary successes being recorded. The Northern and Southern Shan States returned an increase of 1,514 and 4,473 operations respectively and the Chin Hills one of 200. On the whole the year's work in primary successful cases showed a net increase of 28,125 on the returns of the previous year, and 25,146 on those of 1914-15. With the exception of the Arakan and Meiktila Divisions, and the specially administered areas, all the other Divisions in the Province together showed an increase in re-vaccination work of over 17,000 successful cases on the returns of the previous year. As usual Rangoon Town District claimed the largest number of successful re-vaccinations, the year's record being 15,227 or 655 less than in the previous year. Next came Prome District with 8,590 successful re-vaccinations. These cases were performed chiefly in Prome Municipality, where a vaccination campaign was carried out among persons of all ages for a period of one month, with 10 additional vaccinators temporarily engaged for the purpose. Sagaing District returned 7,045 successful re-vaccinations as compared with 2,696 in the previous year. The percentage of successful operations in which the results were known, was uniformly good throughout nearly all the Districts in the Province, except in a few outlying areas such as Sandoway, Northern Arakan and the Chin Hills, where owing to delay in transmission, certain samples of lymph had deteriorated before use and did not produce satisfactory results. The percentage of successful results obtained in 1916-17 was 97.64 for primary operations and 59.32 for re-vaccinations, against 97.14 and 57.18, respectively, in the previous year. The protection afforded by vaccination per 1,000 of population was 36.28 as compared with 32.77 in 1915-16. In the 57 towns where vaccination is compulsory 37,861 primary operations with 34,468 successes were recorded, against 33,677 primary operations with 31,973 successes in 1915-16. Thirty-five towns returned an increase in the number of primary operations performed, and 21 towns a decrease, on the previous year's work. The increase per cent. was conspicuous in the case of Yenangyaung (213 per cent.), Taungdwingyi (136 per cent.), Wakema (201 per cent.), Sagaing (133 per cent.), Paungdè (111 per cent.), and Mergui (75 per cent.). There were rather large decreases in the returns of the towns of Thaton (47.43 per cent.), Sandoway (38.74 per cent.), Ngathaingyaung (34 per cent.), Pynmana (28.85 per cent.), Yamethin (25.86 per cent.) and Letpadan (25.13 per cent.). The return of 75,956 re-vaccinations performed in towns showed an increase of 76.98 per cent. on the outturn of the previous year. A large increase in re-vaccination was recorded by Rangoon, Prome, Paungdè, Pyapön, Moulmein, Mergui, Toungoo, Mandalay, Sagaing, Minbu and Salin. In the 57 towns where vaccination is compulsory the returns of registration of births show the number of infants surviving birth as 21,583 whereas the vaccination returns show that 21,698 infants were successfully vaccinated. Eighteen towns returned a considerably higher number of successful infant vaccinations than there were survivors of registered births. The usual explanation of this anomaly is that these successful cases included infants brought into the town from rural areas for vaccination, or vaccinated by the town vaccinators outside the town limits. A slight decline in both primary and re-vaccination work in dispensaries was noticed. During the year 4,077 persons were vaccinated by the dispensary staff, of which number 2,899 were primary vaccinations and 1,178 re-vaccinations, with successful percentages of 94.66 and 66.35 respectively. The decrease in dispensary vaccination was wholly confined to re-vaccination work. In jails 24,388 persons were vaccinated including 2,274 primary and 22,114 re-vaccination. Out of a total of 422,578 persons primarily vaccinated by all the agencies, Civil Surgeons and other inspecting officers verified the results of 52,818, or 12.50 per cent. as compared with 46,676 or 11.82 per cent. in the previous year. Native Superintendents of Vaccination verified 233,508, or 55.26 per cent. against 193,786 or 49.09 per cent. in 1915-16. In addition to this 8,030 or 6.18 per cent. of the re-vaccination cases were verified by the former class of officers and 49,649 or 38.20 per cent. by the latter class.

Expenditure

176. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 2,27,671, being Rs. 7,196 in excess of the expenditure for 1915-16. The increase under

establishment charges was Rs. 6,837 and under contingencies Rs. 925. There was a decrease of Rs. 366 in expenditure on travelling allowance. The whole of the excess expenditure was borne by Local, Municipal, and Native State Funds. There was a decrease of Rs. 4,066 in expenditure from Provincial Funds.

The average cost per successful operation for the Province was Re. 0-8-3 against Re. 0-9-1 in 1915-16. The Districts which returned the lowest average cost were Myingyan and Sagaing (Re. 0-3-10), and Tharrawaddy (Re. 0-4-6). An exceptionally high average cost was returned by the newly-created District of Putao (Rs. 2-7-4), the next highest being in Northern Arakan (Rs. 1-7-6), Ruby Mines (Rs. 1-5-6), and the Northern Shan States (Rs. 1-4-2).

177. The outturn of glycerinated lymph was 739,031 doses against 748,720 in 1915-16, and 776,432 in 1914-15. The total number of doses issued to vaccinators and others was 730,986, which is more than in either of the two preceding years. The percentage of successful results obtained in 1916-17, in 322,178 primary operations reported to the Director, was 97.32 and in 64,259 re-vaccinations a percentage success ratio of 53.06 was recorded. Among other experiments made, that of preserving vaccine lymph in the chamber attached to the small ice-making machine gave satisfactory results, lymph being used successfully on calves after 13 months' storage. During the year two Native Superintendents and 41 apprentice vaccinators attended for instruction at the Training School. All of them passed the final examination.

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CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

REFERENCES—

Fifth Quinquennial Report on Public Instruction in Burma for the years 1912-13 to 1916-17.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volumes IV and V.

General System of Public Instruction.

See paragraphs 253 to 280 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Education.

General progress and educational measures.

178. The important events during the year were the revision of the Normal School Courses for the training of teachers, the submission of the Bill and Statutes for the proposed Burma University, with a view to bringing in an interim scheme pending the provision of funds for buildings and a full staff, the appointment of Committees on Female Education and the Imperial Idea, and the formation of Divisional School Boards.

The first draft scheme for a Burma University was submitted to the Local Government in 1911-12 and two years later a site was chosen but afterwards discarded as unsuitable. In the year 1914-15 the Draft Bill and Draft Statutes were held under consideration by the Government of India and the Local Government. Certain modifications were found desirable, and in the following year the Bill and Statutes were completely redrafted. At the same time proposals for the early establishment of the University, on the lines laid down in a temporary scheme to be adopted until financial conditions rendered the execution of the larger scheme possible, were drawn up. Both measures came before the Government of India in 1916-17, but the hope that the temporary scheme at least would be finally sanctioned before the end of the year was disappointed.

To the controlling agencies were added the Divisional School Boards and the Rangoon School Board, constituted three months before the close of the year. The new boards are intended to facilitate the participation of both civil officers of Government and non-officials in the conduct of local educational affairs. To them are assigned certain duties and responsibilities which formerly belonged to the Education Department. They exercise very wide powers of financial control and undertake the administration and supervision of vernacular education within their several areas, subject to the general control of the Education Department and in accordance with the orders of Government and the provisions of the Burma Education Code.

The work of the Committee on Female Education is noticed below. A Committee was appointed during the year to ascertain and advise how the Imperial Idea may be inculcated and fostered in Schools and Colleges in Burma and issued a report embodying its recommendations.

Number of schools and scholars and expenditure.

179. The number of public schools increased by 489 and pupils in attendance at public schools by 16,394. The totals now stand at 9,564 schools and 393,399 pupils. The development of collegiate education has been maintained. The number of students reading in Arts Colleges has risen from 645 to 663 in the year of report. Secondary schools of all kinds have risen from 1,331 to 1,400, and pupils in attendance from 122,894 to 128,843. The great bulk of the pupils however—more than four-fifths—are reading in the primary departments of these schools. Upper Primary Schools have increased by 393 and pupils by 9,672. Lower Primary Schools have decreased in number by 15 and pupils

attending them by 279. The returns for private institutions, which are not to be accepted as more than a rough estimate, show an increase of 215 schools and 12,975 pupils.

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EDUCATION.

The total expenditure on education has increased from Rs. 65,14,130 to Rs. 66,79,145. The largest contribution to the increase comes from "Other sources" (subscription, endowments, etc.). The expenditure from District Cess Funds decreased by Rs. 23,452, it increased from fees by Rs. 68,163 and from other sources by Rs. 85,096. The expenditure from Municipal Funds decreased by Rs. 28,261. The average expenditure on education per head of population rose from 8 annas 6 pies in 1915-16 to 8 annas 10 pies in 1916-17. The average cost of educating each pupil in Arts Colleges rose from Rs. 304 to Rs. 311, in Training schools it fell from Rs. 287 to Rs. 284 and in other special schools from Rs. 19 to Rs. 18. The average cost per pupil in secondary schools rose from Rs. 22.9 to Rs. 23.2 and in Upper and Lower Primary schools it fell from Rs. 5.2 to Rs. 4.8 and from Rs. 2.9 to Rs. 2.6 respectively.

180 The term "Primary School" includes all European, Anglo-Vernacular, and Vernacular Schools teaching up to the Fourth Standard. It also includes for certain purposes the Primary Departments (Standards I and IV of Secondary Schools). There are 16 Primary Anglo-Vernacular Schools and 2 Primary European Schools for boys on the register. The remaining 6,770 Primary Schools are vernacular. Primary Schools for boys of all kinds have increased from 6,492 to 6,788 and pupils in attendance from 215,537 to 222,486. Vernacular Primary Schools for boys taken separately have increased from 6,477 to 6,770 and pupils in attendance from 214,833 to 221,516. The number of boys in the Primary Standards of all schools, including European and Anglo-Vernacular schools and schools for girls, has increased from 236,962 to 244,555, about 3.2 per cent. Over nine hundred schools classed as Primary girls' schools have an attendance of nearly 12,000 boys and over 61,000 girls are found in schools classed as boys' schools. The great bulk of the pupils in Vernacular schools are still in the Lower Primary stage and the rate of increase is still faster in that stage than in the Upper Primary. The Anglo-Vernacular Primary School *per se* is of little value. Unless it proceeds in the ordinary course to the Middle stage or serves as a feeder to a neighbouring Middle school it had better be closed. An Anglo-Vernacular Primary education may be better than no education at all, but if it stops there the pupil is less fitted to play his part as a good citizen than if he had received a Vernacular education. The *Mula-ganan-thincha* examination for monks, which was instituted in 1913-14, in order to induce Buddhist monks and novices to learn the elements of modern arithmetic and qualify themselves as teachers of aided monastic schools, is still popular, and many candidates for whom it was never intended, especially in Lower Burma, to which it was extended in 1914-15, have been attracted by it.

The maintenance grant, which is intended gradually to displace the old system of payment by results in Vernacular schools, was introduced first in 1913-14 and has been gradually extended.

181. The term "Secondary Education" connotes European (and Anglo-Indian), Anglo-Vernacular, and Vernacular Education above the Primary stage. But in this paragraph it is customary to deal with only the second and third of these categories and that too in respect of boys' schools only. It should also be noticed that the statistics cover not only the Primary Departments attached to such schools but also include any girls who may be in attendance. The total of all classes of Secondary public schools has risen from 1,331 to 1,400, and of pupils from 122,894 to 128,843. In the Anglo-Vernacular class there is an increase of 4 schools with 191 pupils. There are now 132 Anglo-Vernacular Secondary schools for boys with 26,535 pupils. Of these 37 are High schools. The number of pupils in the High Department of Anglo-Vernacular Boys' schools rose from 2,022 to 2,044. In the Middle Department the number, 9,969, was the same as last year. Of the pupils attending Anglo-Vernacular High schools, the percentage of pupils in the High Department was 7.7, in the Middle Department 37.6, in the

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education.

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Upper Primary 34·4 and in the Lower Primary 20·4. The figures for Vernacular schools shew 1,117 schools with 85,948 pupils, an increase of 64 and 5,378 respectively. There are 25 High schools compared with 23 in 1915-16. Government Vernacular High schools for boys number 3, the same as last year, Middle schools 26, an increase of one. District Cess Middle Vernacular schools have increased from 15 to 16. The last are all in the Arakan and Tenasserim Divisions, where private effort is less effectual than elsewhere in supplying even the limited education that the average village boy expects. Government schools are also most numerous in the Arakan Division, which has 6 of these schools; the Mandalay Division has 5, and the Tenasserim and Magwe Divisions 4 each. The main purpose of Government Vernacular schools is to serve as models for the imitation of aided schools under private management, but they also serve as a source of supply of Vernacular teachers. Government Anglo-Vernacular High schools number 16 with an average attendance of 303, Middle Schools 17 with an average attendance of 148, a total of 33 schools the same as last year. Aided High Schools have increased from 19 to 21, with an average attendance of 388; Aided Middle Schools have increased from 72 to 74, with an average attendance of 142. No important changes were made in the curricula either of Vernacular or Anglo-Vernacular schools, except certain modifications affecting girls' schools. But the Committees on Female Education and on the Imperial Idea that sat during 1916-17 adopted resolutions that may effect very considerable changes in the courses, especially of Anglo-Vernacular schools in the near future. The growth in popularity of the Anglo-Vernacular High School Final Examination conducted by the department continues. The examination was first held in 1910, when 81 candidates entered from the schools and 32 passed. In 1916-17, 549 students including 43 private candidates entered, of whom 542 actually sat and 278 passed.

The results of the examinations are as follows:—

Examination.	1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Number presented.	Number passed.	Number presented.	Number passed.
Anglo-Vernacular High School Final	488	216	549	278
Matriculation	535	234	545	282
Vernacular Ninth Standard	53	9	70	43
Anglo-Vernacular Seventh Standard	2,412	1,109	2,546	1,100
Vernacular Seventh Standard	2,307	728	2,664	883

Collegiate
education.

182. The numbers on the rolls at the two colleges rose from 645 in March 1916 to 663 in March 1917. Of these 556 including 9 women students belonged to the Government College, 107 to the Baptist College. Amongst the 19 private students who passed the examination in 1916-17, were 14 girls from the Government Normal School, Rangoon. A satisfactory feature is the steady growth of the Science classes, the students of which numbered 164. Many of the best students including all the Anglo-Indians who join the Government College, take the Science courses. There is a noticeable increase in the number of Hindus and Mahomedans. The sanctioned staff of the Government College includes nine members of the Indian Educational Service in addition to the Principal, but one appointment has not been filled. The proportion of Burmans on the staff has shown a very satisfactory increase. In 1916 a Lecturer in Persian was appointed to the post endowed by the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. A. S. Jamal, C.I.E., and the nucleus of a Persian library was formed by the purchase of books with a donation of Rs. 1,500 from Mr. Osman Musti Khan. The strengthening of the European element on the staff and the keen interest shewn by the Principal in athletics have promoted a high standard of excellence in games of all kinds, and an equally high standard of play. The number of students in the Law Classes rose in numbers from 12 in 1915-16 to 40 in 1916-17. The standard of education amongst law students has risen considerably in recent years, and in other respects also the students are of a better

type than formerly. The report of the Burma Medical School shews that progress is steady. The number of students rose from 75 to 100. The standard of work has improved. Sixteen students qualified as Sub-Assistant Surgeons in 1916-17, twice the average of the previous three years, and 10 of the 16, including one woman, were Burmans. In the near future Burma ought to be independent of India for the supply of Provincial Medical officers. Ten Burma students, of whom seven are Burmese by race, are studying at the Medical College, Calcutta. Three students passed the final examination for the M.B. degree, one of them after five years' study. The total results of five years' work are not all that might be desired. Fifty-four Indian students from Burma are under training at the Medical Schools of Royapuram, Vizagapatam, Calicut, and Madras. The final-year students from the Government Medical School also undergo a three months' course of Midwifery in Madras.

There is no College for Oriental studies in Burma, but the study of Pāli is encouraged by the *Putamabyan* examinations, which are held annually to test the proficiency of Burmese students of Pāli, and by grants of rice to monasteries recommended as centres of Pāli learning. All but a minute percentage of the candidates are monks. It is noticeable that, whereas the monks who passed at the last examination were just over a third of the candidates, 8 nuns passed out of 10 who sat.

The results of the Calcutta University Examinations so far as Burma candidates are concerned are shown in the following table :—

Examination.	1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Number presented.	Number passed.	Number presented.	Number passed.
B.A.	68	39	81	45
B.Sc.	11	6	12	8
L.A.	194	75	233	96
L.Sc.	39	23	63	34

183. Technical instruction is carried on in three Government institutions and 8 aided institutions. The number of Government schools is the same as in 1915-16, but the number of pupils has increased from 190 to 195. The pupils in the 8 aided schools number 583. The total is thus 11 technical schools with 778 pupils, an increase of 88 pupils. Provision is also made for the training of European and Anglo-Indian apprentices in Engineering and other workshops, namely the Burma Railways, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Rangoon Port Commissioners, the Rangoon Electric Tramways and Supply Company, Messrs. Bulloch Bros., and the Burma Chemical Industries.

Technical
education.

The Technical subjects taught are Cookery, Dress-making, Needlework, Lace-making, Carpentry, Printing, Book-binding, Weaving, Canework, Smith's work, Shoe-making and, in the Commercial Schools, Shorthand, Typewriting, Commercial Correspondence and Book-keeping. If the recommendations of the Committee on Female Education that sat in 1916 are accepted, needlework will become a compulsory subject for girls in all schools.

Manual Training classes are connected with 9 Anglo-Vernacular, 26 Vernacular, and 9 Normal Schools, an increase of 5 Anglo-Vernacular and 16 Vernacular Schools. The appointment of a special Deputy Inspector for Manual Training Schools should do something to spread the teaching of Slöjd.

School gardening continues to develop. At the annual flower show of the Agri-Horticultural Society of Burma, held in Rangoon in February 1917, school gardens were represented for the first time. The decision to award special prizes for schools was reached a little late in the year, but in spite of short notice and of the novelty of the scheme 19 schools sent in exhibits. The best exhibit came from the Roman Catholic Mission School, Thônzè.

There are 18 Survey Schools which train students for the Land Records Department, attended by 140 students in receipt of stipends of Rs.10 per month. At the Educational Syndicate examination in 1916, the passes obtained were 99 in Surveying, 108 in Arithmetic and 174 in Revenue.

The Government School of Engineering has made rapid progress but it has reached the limits of development possible with the existing staff, buildings and equipment. The Public Works Department Reorganization Committee, which visited the school in March 1917, was struck with the poverty of the equipment and accommodation at this, the only Engineering School in the Province. A scheme for re-constitution of the school on a larger scale is under consideration. The number of students increased from 60 to 74, and a more gratifying feature than the mere increase of numbers is the greater proportion of Burmans under training. The percentage of Burmans in the school is now 85. In addition to the Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering classes, there is an Apprentice class in which seven pupils receive a training in technical work that should fit them for employment as instructors in technical or trade schools. Four art students are also being trained, two in wood-work, two in bronze. One of these won the second-grade competition for bronze-work at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition in December 1916.

184. The history of Training Schools is a record of change and experiment and of a struggle between two principles, the principle of concurrence and the principle of sequence in literary and professional studies. A disturbing and complicating factor was added by the necessity, rightly emphasized by the Government of India, for rapidly increasing the outturn of trained teachers, even if courses had to be shortened and some degree of theoretical efficiency sacrificed to utilitarian considerations. With an abbreviated course of training it is evident that a greater proportion of the time available must be devoted to theoretical and practical work on the professional side, and that literary work must be relegated to schools and colleges for general education. These considerations finally turned the scale in favour of the principle of sequence, and the literary work that filled up the Normal students' time under the old curriculum was, for the most part, abandoned. In most of the grades, therefore, the initial qualification for entry had to be raised in order to secure that students taking a shorter training should not be inferior in literary qualifications to those trained under the old curriculum. In the year 1913-14 the courses came under revision, and modified regulations were approved in 1914-15. In 1916-17 the Committee on Female Education examined the Normal School curricula and made recommendations in the direction of further simplification, in order to increase the outturn of trained teachers without a proportionate increase of expense, and, by extending the application of the principle of sequence of studies, to avoid the duplication of teaching in literary subjects and the vexatious multiplication of examinations. The new scheme, formulated primarily in the interests of female students, was found applicable with few modifications to male students also, and the regulations of 1914-15, which were now seen to be clearly of a transitional character, were recast.

The Elementary Training Classes for teachers of Primary Vernacular schools, which were established in 1912-13 have proved very successful and are supplying annually over two hundred teachers of a very useful type. Candidates for training are selected from backward areas and return to their villages at the end of the year's work, to teach in aided schools or to open new schools of their own. The initial qualification is a pass by Standard IV Vernacular, and the training is of a practical character intended to make the student competent to teach thoroughly the simple curriculum of a primary school.

The number of Normal Schools was 12 the same as last year, four for female, eight for male students, but girls attend four of the latter schools. There is also a Kindergarten training class for girls at St. Michael's European School, Maymyo. The Elementary Training Classes number 19, one of these being an Urdu class in Akyab. Of the remainder, four are for girls, and one of these is held in connexion with a monastic school at Sagaing under a very enlightened *póngyi*, U Thila. Seven other such classes are held in Monastic Schools and one of these

admits girls as well as boys. The following statement shows the distribution of students :—

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INSTRUCTION.

	Anglo-Vernacular.				Vernacular.			
	1915-16.		1916-17.		1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
High School Certificate ...	49	25	48	25	9	...	7	...
Middle School Certificate ...	29	11	46	14	152	41	124	22
Primary School Certificate ...	87	85	89	85	130	66	148	99

In the Elementary Training Classes were 189 male and 56 female students ; in all 651 male and 301 female students, compared with 642 men and 290 women in 1915-16. Excluding the Elementary Training Classes, Normal students numbered 707 in 1916-17 compared with 677 in 1915-16. The following statement shows the Examination passes :—

	Anglo-Vernacular.		Vernacular.	
	1915-16.	1916-17.	1915-16.	1916-17.
High School Certificate	38	19	25
Middle School Certificate	72	99	228
Primary School Certificate	90	79	512

The total annual output of teachers of all kinds Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular, including also the Elementary Trained Teachers who qualified decreased slightly from 1,118 in 1915-16 to 1,107 in 1916-17. In spite of the improvement in the numbers of Anglo-Vernacular trained teachers, the Education Department does not yet attract enough of the best class either of Burman or Anglo-Indian high school and college students. The question of improving the scale of pay of Anglo-Vernacular teachers is at present under consideration.

185. The number of European schools is the same as last year. European pupils rose from 4,912 to 5,177 and pupils in European schools from 5,159 to 5,387.

European schools.

Apart from the satisfactory increase in numbers there has been an even more satisfactory increase in the proportion of pupils attending High and Middle School classes. The returns show an increase in the High stage of 14 boys and 49 girls ; in the Middle of 47 boys and 34 girls ; in the Primary of 58 boys and 26 girls as compared with 1915-16. Arts Colleges show the same as in 1915-16, *viz.* 29, but to this should be added the 15 girls who in 1917 were reading for the I.A. Examination at the Government Normal School, Rangoon. The ratio of the number of pupils in the High, Middle, and Primary departments respectively was, in 1917, 1 : 3·7 : 10, compared with 1 : 4·3 : 12 in 1916. Europeans under training in Training schools for Masters have increased from 31 to 32, those in Training schools for Mistresses have decreased from 18 to 17.

The results of the examinations are as follows :—

Examination.	1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Number presented.	Number passed.	Number presented.	Number passed.
European High School ...	109	47	120	61
European Seventh Standard ...	304	141	308	191

Chap.
VII.—
Education.

Education
of Mahomedans
and
special
classes.

106. The total number of Mahomedans under instruction has risen from 22,519 to 24,899. Of these 16,531 or 66 per cent. are in public institutions. Girls alone number 3,999, an increase of 845 as compared with 1915-16. The proportion of children in public schools to the total Mahomedan population is slightly higher than the corresponding figures for all classes of schools taken together. Mahomedans attending Mahomedan public schools, Vernacular or Anglo-Vernacular, number 8,772, or little over half the total of those in public institutions. The remainder attend Burmese or Anglo-Burmese schools, a fact which has to be borne in mind in discussing Mahomedan education. The rapid increase in the number of schools and pupils is due in large measure to the appointment in 1912 of a separate Mahomedan Deputy Inspector of Schools for Arakan, and in 1916 of a Mahomedan Deputy Inspector of Schools for Upper Burma, the opening of an Elementary Training Class for Urdu teachers in Akyab and the payment of salary grants to fifteen teachers trained there. In Government Anglo-Vernacular schools, wherever the demand justified the expenditure, Urdu teachers have been appointed for Mahomedan pupils. Some of these measures were the outcome of a conference of gentlemen interested in Mahomedan education held in 1913. The number of Anglo-Vernacular schools for Mahomedans has risen from 4 to 5, all in Rangoon, and pupils in attendance from 374 to 496. Vernacular public schools have risen in number from 167 to 189 and pupils from 7,517 to 8,276. Muktab schools teaching the Koran only are shewn as 299 with 8,358 pupils, compared with 253 and 7,171 pupils in 1915-16, but the statistics of Muktab schools are not to be implicitly trusted. The proportion of Mahomedan pupils who proceed to the High stages of schools and to College is shewn by the returns of public examinations to be increasing.

The table of passes is as follows:—

	1915-16.	1916-17.
B.A.	1	2
I.A. and I.Sc.	5	9
Matriculation	13	21
Anglo-Vernacular High School Final	9	16

Of the races included in the term "special classes," the Karens in their various tribes are the most numerous and important, and their educational progress is uniform, though not so rapid as the progress of education amongst Burmans. There are 13 Anglo-Vernacular and 1,165 Vernacular Karen schools, with 2,822 and 32,047 pupils respectively, on the aided list. Tamil and Telugu Anglo-Vernacular schools have increased from 14 to 15, and pupils from 2,099 to 2,381, but Vernacular schools have declined from 64 to 58 and attendance thereat from 2,364 to 2,060. The more permanent Madras population prefers English education. Their Vernacular schools are mostly ephemeral institutions and fluctuate greatly in numbers according to the demand for imported labour and the earnings of the labouring classes. Education in the Shan States has made rapid progress in spite of great obstacles. It was found necessary to provide two additional Sub-Inspectors in the Northern Shan States. An elementary training class was opened at Lashio in 1916. Shan Vernacular schools have increased from 106 to 167, attendance from 3,556 to 5,473. Two of these schools, at Lashio and Mogok, are managed by Government. Boarding hostels have been opened at Lashio and Hsipaw. Taungthu schools have increased from 24 to 63 and attendance from 783 to 1,809. Danu schools fell from 30 to 29 and attendance rose from 842 to 875. Intha schools have declined (75 to 20, attendance 1,815 to 713). These schools lie in the Yawnghwe State. Eleven Lahu and Lawa schools, with an attendance of 450 pupils, have been registered. At present Western Shan and Burmese are the two languages recognized in the schools. The Government Anglo-Vernacular School for the Sons of Shan Chiefs, with 88 pupils, continues to do good work. Chin schools have increased from 36 to 43, of which two are Anglo-Vernacular, and the attendance from 1,275 to 1,706. There are three Government Vernacular schools for Chins; both Anglo-Vernacular schools are under Missionary management. Kachin schools remain the same as last year, 19. The attendance rose from 611 to 660. Talaing schools have risen in number from 90 to 91, but attendance fell from 4,615 to 3,398. Schools for the Blind are

working at Moulmein and Kemmendine. The former is managed by a Committee, which was reconstituted in 1912, and is doing useful work. The number of pupils in the Moulmein school is 27, in the Kemmendine school 7. Plans for schools for Deaf Mutes are under consideration. The treatment of defective children is rendered difficult by the unwillingness of parents to send such children to central schools in the large towns. The problem has not yet been thoroughly considered by the Local Government, and the best method of dealing with defective children has not yet been ascertained. Four children were discharged cured from the Kemmendine school in one year. There is no doubt that a considerable proportion of the blind children in the Province could be cured if they were brought under treatment early, and the plans under consideration include prophylactic and remedial measures in which the Medical and Educational Departments will co-operate.

CHAP.
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INSTRUCTION.

187. The number of schools classed as girls' schools has increased from 994 to 1,077, when compared with 1915-16. The number of girls in public institutions has risen from 113,301 to 120,207, an increase of 6·1 per cent. Mahomedan girls in public schools rose from 704 to 896. More than four-fifths of the total increase is in the Lower Primary stage, which contains 85 per cent. of the pupils; but that there is a growing demand for somewhat higher education of girls is shewn by a comparison between the percentages of increase at each stage; High 26, Middle 11, Upper Primary 10, and Lower Primary 5 per cent. Progress in the High Stage is confined to Anglo-Vernacular and European education and the total number is small (312).

Female
education.

The curricula in girls' schools remained unchanged. Girls take the same courses as boys, except in the Middle and High departments of European schools and the Middle departments of Anglo-Vernacular Middle schools. In European Middle schools, Domestic Economy is compulsory for girls, but History and Second Language, which are compulsory for boys, are optional for girls; in the High school, Hygiene must be taught as an extra subject if Domestic Economy is not chosen as one of the optional subjects, but a second language is optional for girls, though compulsory for boys. In Anglo-Vernacular Middle schools, girls must take Domestic Economy and Needlework in lieu of Geometry, but exceptions are permitted in the case of girls attending boys' schools or preparing for admission to a Normal school or college. Such exceptions are numerous. The Committee on Female Education appointed at the end of 1916 approved important changes in the courses for girls on the recommendation of the Ladies' Sub-Committee deputed to consider the special needs of girls. The proposals of the Sub-Committee emphasized the necessity of teaching Domestic Economy and Needlework to girls in all classes of schools; in order to enable girls to devote more time to these subjects, the courses in other subjects were to be modified and simplified. The introduction of special courses for girls is inevitably hampered by the system of co-education which prevails not only in the Village Vernacular school, but in the Anglo-Vernacular and European schools under Missionary management. The extent to which co-education prevails is seen from the fact that there are three times as many girls in schools for boys as in schools for girls. Ninety-five per cent. of the girls in schools are in vernacular mixed schools. It is true that more than half are in the Lower Primary stage, in which a differentiation between courses for the two sexes is hardly a matter of first-rate importance. But after making the necessary deductions it is clear that there are about 16,000 girls, in standards above the Lower Primary, reading in mixed schools. The Committee on Female Education adopted a resolution in favour of the separate vernacular education of girls above Standard IV or above the age of 12, in any area where adequate facilities for such separate education exist.

188. The proposal to transfer the Reformatory School to Thazi has had to be abandoned owing to difficulties in connexion with the water-supply, as well as financial stress, and it remains at Insein. The number on the rolls at the end of March 1917 was 91, 4 less than in March 1916. One-third of the boys are non-Burmans, chiefly Indians. The crafts taught, in addition to elementary education in the Vernacular, are Carpentry, Shoe-making, Canework and Tinsmith's work.

Reformatory
School,
Insein.

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VII.—
INSTRUC-
TION.

Religious and Moral training form part of the ordinary routine. From November 1916 a Burmese *Sayadon* or his substitute has preached to the boys on Sundays and Buddhist holy days. Under the revised regulations of 1915-16 the school is brought more directly under the control of the Education Department, but the Visiting Committee still inspects monthly and gives invaluable assistance. The change from the cubicle to the dormitory system has been carried out without hitch or untoward results. Discipline under milder conditions is good, though two boys escaped during the year, of whom one only was recaptured. For the first time Athletic Sports were held and prizes given, on Durbar Day, 1916. The returns for 1916-17 shew that, of 25 boys discharged from the Reformatory, 5 cannot be traced. None was reconvicted, 2 practise trades taught in the school, 9 practise other trades.

Literature and the Press.

Publications
registered.

189. The number of books published annually in the Province has decreased progressively since the beginning of the war. It was 362 in 1913, 302 in 1914, 275 in 1915 and only 255 in the year of report. Of the number of books published 177 were in Burmese, 21 in English, 9 in Pāli, 14 were bilingual English-Burmese, 23 Burmese-Pāli, 5 were in Sgaw-Karen, 2 in Urdu, while there was one each in Gujarati, Shan, Talaing and Anglo-Gujerati. The falling off has been most marked among books on religion which numbered only 95 in 1916, as against 195 in 1913, and 142 in 1915. The decrease since last year is somewhat counterbalanced by a rise from 51 to 83 in the number of books classified as "Miscellaneous" under which category a considerable number of books are shown which really deal with religious subjects. The majority of the religious books are in Burmese or Pāli and deal with Buddhist philosophy and religion, there being the usual text-books on monastic discipline, religious meditation, and other accepted methods of freeing the soul from sin. Twelve books were published by Christian Missions and deal with Christianity. There was a marked increase in imaginative literature, the number of plays going up from 11 to 17 and the number of works of fiction showing a precisely similar rise. Of the plays two were in Gujarati, and the remainder in Burmese. Six of the latter were founded on Jataka stories, two were historical, and the others had new plots in conventional setting usually with a supernatural interest. The works of fiction were, all except one, novels in Burmese. Four dealt with historical subjects, and the remaining twelve were novels dealing with modern Burmese life. There has of recent years been an extremely interesting development in this respect. There has been an increasing number of novels modelled on the pattern of the modern English novel, and written in language that is much more closely akin to colloquial Burmese than to the highflown literary diction. Most of the novels are crude pieces of work, and a satisfactory literary medium has not yet been evolved. But the most recent attempts shew a decided improvement on the earlier ones. And with numerous writers in the field, the evolution of a satisfactory literary medium is merely a question of time. No historical work of any importance, and no work on medicine was published. The only legal books were some handbooks and digests intended mainly for students. Twenty-one books classified under the head of Language were published during the year seven of which were keys to school text-books or crambooks. There were 7 books on Pāli grammar. Other books published comprise works on astrology, medicine, magic, biographies, song-books and the rules of various societies. An interesting series of thirteen booklets which appear to have hit the public taste, are the *Sommasa* or Counsels of Wunsayemin U Gyi, a collection of precepts which reflect the shrewd judgment and experience of a man of the world. The only English works of any general interest were a book of essays and verses, and a book on big game shooting in Lower Burma.

Presses,
newspaper
and
periodicals.

190. Excluding the Government presses there were 163 presses in the Province, as against 157 in the previous year. In Rangoon 4 presses ceased work and 9 new presses were opened, the number working being 70 at the close of the year.

One press in Mandalay ceased work during the year, leaving the number at 29. Two new presses were started in Insein, one in Hanthawaddy, and three in Prome. Two presses closed down in Tharrawaddy, and one each in Prome and Thaton. The number of newspapers published was 47 as against 49 in the previous year. In Rangoon 5 newspapers, and in Toungoo one, ceased publication. A new paper appeared at Akyab, as did 3 at Rangoon. Of the daily newspapers 3 were in English, 3 in Burmese, 2 in Anglo-Burmese, one in Tamil and one in Chinese. Of the total number of newspapers daily and otherwise, 16 were in English, 12 in Burmese, 6 in Anglo-Burmese, 5 in Sgaw-Karen, 2 in Kachin and one each in Pwo-Karen, Chinese, Gujerati, Tamil, and Urdu. Of a total number of 25 periodicals other than Government publications 11 were in Burmese, 10 in English, 2 in Anglo-Burmese, one in Sgaw-Karen, and one in Tamil. Eight periodicals ceased publication during the year, and five new ones were started.

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VII.—
INSTRUC-
TION.

Literary Societies.

See paragraph 294 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

191. No new society was formed during the year and there is nothing of interest to note about existing societies. The membership of the Rangoon Literary Society fell from 140 to 132 during the year. Its income was Rs. 6,364, as against Rs. 6,147 in the previous year. The library was increased by 334 books during the year. Three lectures were delivered during the year under the auspices of the Rangoon Teachers' Association. The number of visitors to the library and reading-room increased from 8,284 to 10,439 during the year of report. The Bernard Free Library issued 9,305 books to 1,691 registered borrowers, as against 7,829 books to 1,526 borrowers in the previous year. Visitors to the reference library numbered 9,545 as against 7,648.

Rangoon
Societies.

Arts and Sciences.

192. The condition of the art industries of the Province has not improved materially since the previous year, nor is it likely to improve until financial conditions become normal. The only industry which has received the benefit of Government aid in the way of instruction and advice is the weaving industry. This, through the medium of the Saunders Weaving Institute, has achieved some measure of progress. Co-operation has also extended to the lacquer-ware industry, but it is too early to say what effect this has had on the development of trade.

The chief event of the year was the exhibition which was held at Rangoon in December 1916. This was an extension of the usual Arts and Crafts Exhibition. It was opened by His Excellency the Viceroy and remained open for a fortnight. During this period some 50,000 people visited the Exhibition. The Exhibition included not only the Art Industries but there were also sections for Forestry, Agriculture, Mineralogy, Archaeology, etc., and the whole was made as inclusive a representation of the industries of the Province as the short time available for preparation allowed.

The system of art apprenticeships continued. The number of apprentices receiving Government stipends was twelve, of whom four were resident at the Engineering School, Insein, and were in receipt of training under the master-craftsmen resident there, two learning wood-carving and two bronze work.

REFERENCE—

Report of the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Burma, for the year 1916-17.

193. The programme of work of the Archæological Department for the year comprised ten items. Nothing was done during the year so far as three of the items are concerned. It was not found possible to proceed with the archæological examination at Yathemyo (Pegu) and Twante, nor with the excavations near the Payagyi Pagoda near Hmawza, and the revision of the catalogue of exhibits at the Pagan and the Mandalay Palace Museums was interrupted by the removal of the exhibits for the Industrial Exhibition at Rangoon in December 1916. Considerable progress was made with all the other items. The four negatives which were wanting in the previous year to complete the collection for the "Monograph on the terra-cotta plaques representing scenes from the 550 Jatakas found at or near the Petleik Pagoda at Pagan" were obtained at the Patodawgyi Pagoda, Amarapura, where there is another series of plaques, which dates from the early part of the nineteenth century, illustrating Jataka stories and depicting scenes of Indian life in an entirely Burmese setting, whereas the plaques from Pagan are, except for the form of the houses, Indian throughout in style and technique. Materials for the compilation of the letter-press of this monograph were collected during the year. Good headway has been made with the "History of architecture at Pagan." The monograph on the Ananda Temple at Pagan has been brought nearer completion by the decipherment and translation of the Talaing legends on the 400 plaques of the temple. The chronological list of all the inscriptions found in Burma was completed during the year, and underwent revision prior to publication. Satisfactory progress was made with the translation into English of the collections of inscriptions in the volumes known as "Inscriptions collected in Upper Burma, 1900" and of the "Original inscriptions collected by King Bodawpaya." The work of deciphering the Pāli inscription on the Myazedi pillar was completed. The Burmese, Talaing, and Pyu inscriptions on this pillar have already been translated, so that the work on this monument, which has proved of the utmost value for fixing definite dates in Burmese history from the eleventh to the end of the thirteenth century, is now almost finished. Further study of the frescoes discovered in 1916 at Min-nan-thu near Pagan, has shed fresh light on the history of religion at Pagan before the eleventh century. It is now fairly clear that the northern school of Buddhism or Mahayanism existed there before the introduction of Hinayanism, or the southern school, and was brought from Bengal or Northern India about the sixth century. The Aris or priests of this northern school fostered superstitious and degraded practices and officiated at animal sacrifices. This is probably the reason why the Burmese historians have so emphatically denied the existence of Buddhism at Pagan before the introduction of Hinayanism on the conquest of Thatōn by Anawrata. During the year Mr. C. O. Blagden continued his admirable work in the decipherment of ancient Talaing inscriptions and completed the translation of the inscription at the Shwezigon Pagoda, which contains an account of the accession of King Kyanzittha. No archæological discovery of outstanding value was made during the year but the finding of a number of inscriptions, figures, urns, coins, etc. was reported by officers of various departments, a fact which shows that a general interest in the archæology of the Province has now been awakened. A request made to the Lieutenant-Governor on his visit to Akyab in February 1917, that an archæological officer should be stationed there to supervise the preservation and restoration of the antiquities of Arakan also bears witness to this awakening, while the good example set by the *Thathanabaing* and by U Kanti, the Hermit of Mandalay Hill, in repairing ancient monuments should go far to break down the long-standing prejudice against such action. In the archæological section of the Arts and Handicrafts Exhibition held at Rangoon from the 4th to the 16th of December there were exhibited representative specimens of Buddhist sacred statuary, votive tablets, plaques, coins, wooden figures, inscriptions and also photographs of typical specimens of Burmese architecture sacred and profane.

The amount expended on archæological works in 1916-17 was Rs. 29,751, as against Rs. 14,852 in 1915-16. The cost of the Archæological Survey was Rs. 33,774 which is Rs. 165 less than the amount expended in the previous year.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

REFERENCES—

Report of the Chemical Examiner to the Government of Burma for the year 1916.

Report on the working of the Pasteur Institute and Bacteriological Laboratory for the period of eight months from the 1st August 1916 to the 31st March 1917.

Statistical Abstract for British India, Volume IV.

Report on the working of the office of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Burma, for the year ending the 31st March 1917.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See paragraphs 297 to 300 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Ecclesiastical.

194. During the year of report the new church at Maymyo was brought into use and also a church at Yenangyaung for the oil-fields chaplaincy. The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Rangoon left for a short furlough in England under medical advice, leaving the Archdeacon in charge of the diocese as his commissary. The Government Chaplaincy at Thayetmyo was closed and a Government Chaplain appointed to Mandalay, which has now the larger garrison. Two vacancies occurred on the establishment by resignation and were filled up. One chaplain resigned in order to take a combatant commission in the Army, and another left Burma for active service in Mesopotamia.

Stationery.

195. The bulk of the paper used for official purposes continued to be supplied by the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps, Calcutta, from the Indian mills. The cost of stationery supplied to General Departments and Presses in Burma during the year amounted to Rs. 69,162 and Rs. 2,47,023 respectively, showing a decrease of Rs. 3,535 under General Departments and an increase of Rs. 30,398 under Government Presses as compared with the previous year. The increase under Government Presses was due to the abnormal rise in the cost of all stationery supplies.

Offices of the Chemical Examiner and the Bacteriologist to the Government of Burma.

196. Two thousand one hundred and one examinations were carried out, against 1,818 in 1915, in the Medico-legal Department. There was an increase of 82 cases of human poisoning. The number of blood and seminal stain cases increased slightly from 712 in 1915 to 747, but the articles examined fell from 1,259 in 1915 to 1,243. In the General Analytical Department, only 18,982 articles were examined, against 23,834 in 1915. The cause for the continued decrease is ascribed to fewer samples of cocaine being received for examination.

owing to restriction on, and to stricter examination of, imports. Water analyses were made in 287 cases against 367 in 1915. Municipalities and other local bodies continue to have their sources of water-supply tested whenever necessary. The Bacteriological work is now being done under the supervision of the Director, Burma Pasteur Institute, Rangoon, and 124 Histological Examinations, 235 Bacteriological, 391 Serum and, 10 Miscellaneous Examinations, and 436 protective inoculations were done.

Office of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Burma.

197. The Government Presses in the Province are three in number, *viz.*, the Central Press and the Jail Branch Press, both in Rangoon and the Maymyo Branch Press. The work which is carried out at these Presses is chiefly printing for Government Departments. The receipts amounted to Rs. 46,126 in the year of report, against Rs. 47,260 in the previous year, and the expenditure to Rs. 3,46,212, against Rs. 3,75,057. Printing work to the value of Rs. 1,110 was given out to private presses during the year. The value of the outturn of work from the Central Press was Rs. 3,10,931, from the Jail Branch Press, Rs. 74,198, and from the Maymyo Branch Press Rs. 14,489, in all Rs. 3,99,618. The corresponding total for 1915-16 was Rs. 4,12,787. The value of Dead Stock at the three Presses, exclusive of lands and buildings is estimated at Rs. 5,22,297, against Rs. 5,55,474 in the previous year. The total sales, excluding Gazettes, at the Government Book Depot and by the authorized agents, amounted to Rs. 14,216, while the additions to stock were valued at Rs. 52,907. Acts and publications to the value of Rs. 40,872 were supplied gratis during the year.